FBIS DAILY REPORT

CONTENTS

Latin America

Vol VI No 041 *1 March 1983*

ARGENTINA

Activities of Gordeyev, Soviet Delegation Noted B 1
Maritime Transport Agreement Discussed B 1
Martinez Vivot Notes Options in Falklands Recovery B 2
Atomic Energy Chairman To Brief Bignone B 2
Federation of Government Workers Created B 3
Bignone Continues Dialogue With FIP, Molipo B 3
Meets With UCD, MDS [BUENOS AIRES HERALD 26 Feb] B 5
Governor of Mendoza Province Resigns Post B 5

BOLIVIA

COB Leader Raps Government's Economic Policy C 1
Private Businessmen Report on Economic Picture C 1

BRAZIL

Brazil To Request Another Bridge Loan From U.S. D 1
[O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO 24 Feb]
Central Bank President Discusses Loan Packages D 1
[LATIN AMERICAN DAILY POST 26 Feb]

CHILE

Carvajal Claims Arms Imports 'As Usual' E 1
State of Emergency Extended as of 1 March E 1

COLOMBIA

Finance Minister Comments on Court Ruling F 1

ECUADOR

Rodriguez Sees 'Strategy To Destroy OPEC' G 1
Officials Discuss Hurtado's Economic Initiative G 1
Briefs: World Bank Loan; Japanese Government Credit G 2

PARAGUAY

Montanaro Discusses Return of Political Exiles H 1
[HOY 22 Feb]
Doldan Reaction [ABC COLOR 24 Feb] H 2

PERU

Schwalb, Rodriguez To Visit U.S., Seek Loans J 1
Representatives to New Delhi Meeting Appointed J 1

URUGUAY

Foreign Minister Returns From Colombia 28 Feb K 1
Terrorist Arrested While Trying To Flee Country K 1
Over 1,000 Evacuated Because of Floods 26 Feb K 1
Briefs: Unemployment Figures; Cost of Living Increases K 1

VENEZUELA

Central Bank President's Resignation Reported L 1
Herrera Denies Resignation L 1
Antilles Minister-President on Herrera Visit L 1

MEXICO

New Oil Prices Forthcoming in Early March M 1
Editorial Criticizes U.S. Latin American Policy M 1
[EXCELSIOR 21 Feb]
Closed Door Economic Talks Held With Nicaragua M 2
Defense Secretary Reports on Antidrug Campaign M 2
Briefs: Ambassador to USSR; Ambassadorial Appointments; M 2
Labor Congress President

PANAMA

Campaign Against School of the Americas Planned N 1
[LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA 28 Feb]
Washington Response to Paredes Letter Reported N 1
[LA PRENSA 27 Feb]
Illueca on Latin American Security, Paredes Letter N 1
Banana Company, Striking Workers Reach Agreement N 3
[LA PRENSA 24 Feb]
Three Parties Meet Registration Requirements N 3

CENTRAL AMERICA

COSTA RICA

Newsmen Cite Sandinist Abuses on San Juan River P 1
[LA NACION 24 Feb]
Extradition Treaty With U.S. Sent to Assembly P 1
[LA NACION 21 Feb]

EL SALVADOR

Guerrillas Announce Cease-Fire for Pope's Visit P 2
More on FMLN Cease-Fire P 2
Garcia Response P 3
Radio Venceremos P 3
Church Communique on Pope's Visit to Cathedral P 3
Armed Forces Restore Calm to Suchitoto P 4
Labor Leaders Accuse Army Units in Killings P 4
Havana Reports Accusation P 5

GUATEMALA

Rios Montt Praises Upcoming Papal Visit P 5

NICARAGUA

Paper Criticizes Congressman Long's Statements P 6
[EL NUEVO DIARIO 19 Feb]

CUBA

Havana Cites Area Leftists on Pope's Visit Q 1
Malmierca Arrives in New Delhi for Summit 27 Feb Q 1
Raul Castro Tours Pinar del Rio Province Q 1
Hart in Rome To Attend Italian CP Congress Q 2
Jorge Lezcano Leads Delegation to Hungary Q 2
Radio on President Reagan's 'Unpopularity' Q 2
Commentary on Suriname Revolution Anniversary Q 3
Rains Affect Cane Harvest Throughout Country Q 4

DOMINICAN REPUBLIC

President Reportedly To Reshuffle Cabinet R 1
Jorge Blanco Addresses National Congress R 1

CARIBBEAN

ACP Urges EEC To Back Sugar, Tourism Pacts S 1
Joint Committee Meeting Ends S 2
EEC/ACP Meeting Resolution S 3

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

Prime Minister Views Regional Defense, Security S 4

BARBADOS

Foreign Minister Heads Delegation to Nonaligned S 4

BERMUDA

Finance Minister Presents $165 Million Budget S 5

DOMINICA

Controversial USAID Agreement To Be Discussed S 5

GRENADA

Bishop Calls Economy Growth 'Model for Western World' S 6
Havana Cites Officials on Disruption Plans S 7
Bishop Assures Businesses of PRG Consideration S 7
Foreign Minister Pays Visit to Vietnam [cross-reference] S 7

MARTINIQUE

Leftists Win Seat Majority in Elections S 7

GUYANA

Foreign Ministry on Venezuela's Letter to Castro T 1
Party Warns of Consequences From Dry Spell T 1

SURINAME

Military Regime Installs New Cabinet 28 Feb U 1
New Premier on Objectives U 1
Bouterse Cancels 25 Feb Speech; Cabinet Dispute U 2
[Amsterdam DE VOLKSKRANT 25 Feb]
Reportedly Fires Netherlands Envoy U 2
[Amsterdam DE VOLKSKRANT 24 Feb]
Havana Cites Labor Leader on Current Struggle U 3
Red Cross Representative Ends Fact-finding Visit U 3

ACTIVITIES OF GORDEYEV, SOVIET DELEGATION NOTED

PY282200 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 2008 GMT 25 Feb 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 25 Feb (DYN) -- Boris Gordeyev, Soviet deputy minister of foreign trade, said today that the stage of "concrete negotiations" between the delegation he is heading and the Argentine Government will start when he meets with Argentine grain exporters next Monday.

Gordeyev today made brief remarks after meeting with Commerce Secretary Alberto Fraguio and Agriculture and Livestock Secretary Victor Hugo Santirso. He said that the discussions included the degree of fulfillment and prospects of the agreement signed in 1980 for the supply of Argentine wheat to the USSR.

The Soviet official said: "The most important thing we hope to discuss with Argentine officials is how this agreement is being fulfilled, what last year's results were and how it is being carried out now as well as exchanging opinions regarding the development of grain trade between our countries and the rest of the world."

Gordeyev added that in addition to the general negotiations, "we believe that the concrete negotiations will be held at the National Grain Council with the representatives of the Argentine wheat exporting firms."

Next Monday the Soviet mission has meetings scheduled with the National Grain Council for the entire day, including a cocktail party and then a meeting with the council Tuesday afternoon before the final meeting with Fraguio.

The secretary of commerce also made brief remarks this morning explaining that at this time "we are only going to review what has been done in the past because this is a preparatory meeting of the mixed commission meeting to be held in a few months in Moscow."

After indicating that he hoped to meet with Gordeyev "practically every day" until the departure of the mission next Wednesday, the secretary of commerce said that "no agreements will results from the meetings, it will only serve for study and analysis of pending situations."

Tonight, Fraguio will give a dinner reception for the Soviet mission. Tomorrow morning Gordeyev and his delegation will leave for Bahia Blanca, Encochea and Mar del Plata returning Sunday.

Next week, in addition to the meeting scheduled at the National Grain Council, the visitors will meet with Ciro Garcia, secretary of maritime interests, next Tuesday and the same day with Economy Minister Jorge Wehbe at 1100.

Maritime Transport Agreement Discussed

PY282251 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 2000 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Excerpt] At the beginning of today's meeting the Maritime Interests Secretariat disclosed that the bilateral maritime transport agreement and protocol of understanding regarding fishing would be discussed with the Soviet trade delegation visiting our country.

The Soviet delegation is headed by Soviet Deputy Foreign Trade-Minister Boris Gordeyev while the Argentine delegation is headed by Rear Adm Ciro Garcia, head of the Maritime Interests Secretariat.

MARTINEZ VIVOT NOTES OPTIONS IN FALKLANDS RECOVERY

PY282218 Buenos Aires DYN in Spanish 1110 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] Comodoro Rivadavia, 28 Feb (DYN) -- Defense Minister Julio Martinez Vivot stated that "diplomacy is not the only option Argentina has for recovering the Malvinas Islands." However, he said that "it would be a paradox to negotiate and at the same time use force."

The minister, who arrived here from a tour of different border areas, explained that "there has been only a de facto cessation of hostilities and this is just a circumstance that, we hope, will lead to the recovery of the Malvinas Islands."

Asked about the possibilities that an action similar to the 2 April events may be repeated, he replied that "it would be a paradox to negotiate and at the same time use force."

Martinez Vivot reported that he visited, among others, the Santa Cruz localities of Perito Moreno, Rio Turbio, Calafate and Los Antiguos, where he learned about the living conditions of the people.

He was also asked whether he thought the British were likely to deploy nuclear weapons on the islands. He answered "I do not think so. We should not let expectations grow beyond their present level."

Martinez Vivot stated that "diplomacy is not the only option Argentina has to recover the Malvinas Islands." He added: "This is the position we have adopted in keeping with our own negotiations and with those of the United Nations whose secretary general, Javier Perez de Cuellar, has been coordinating the talks, which are aimed at achieving satisfactory results."

ATOMIC ENERGY CHAIRMAN TO BRIEF BIGNONE

PY281341 Buenos Aires Domestic Service in Spanish 1030 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] During the week President Bignone is scheduled to meet with the chairman of the National Atomic Energy Commission, [CNEA], Vice Admiral Castro Madero, who has just returned from Vienna, and will brief the president about this trip.

Admiral Castro Madero has made some important statements. He reasserted that the use of nuclear submarines against any country, such as Argentina, goes against the policies of all those countries, like ours, that are promoting the nonproliferation of nuclear weapons. He said, however, that this is more a moral than a legal principle.

Answering a question whether Great Britain would be sanctioned for (?using) nuclear weapons in the Malvinas, Castro Madero noted that he believes that the five powers that have the privilege of using nuclear weapons do not violate any rules since these rules have been drafted in keeping with their needs. Therefore, there will not be any reactions against Great Britain. He noted: I believe this a moral issue, not a legal one. Moreover, he said that this issue was not discussed at the Vienna meeting since the issued of the use of nuclear weapons by Great Britain must be discussed by the disarmament commission.

Castro Madero explained that the main issue discussed at the conference was the matter submitted last September by the Argentine delegation requesting that the director of the international organization issue a report on the compatibility of the many safeguard agreements and the statutes. He noted that this report was submitted during the recent meeting and that Argentina criticized it since the Argentine delegation thought it incomplete. He said that, nevertheless, the result of this report was very positive, because it boosts the Argentine position in negotiations for future safeguard agreements to be signed with the organization.

Regarding nuclear undertakings in our country, Castro Madero said that they are going ahead very well. He said that this is because the CNEA budget has been extended until a new one is approved for this year. Castro Madero noted that for the time being the most important undertaking is the Embalse nuclear power plant, which will not undergo tests. It will be officially inaugurated in mid-April after it is connected to the energy system in March.

Castro Madero also noted that Argentina maintains very good relations with those countries with which Argentina has signed contracts, since the supply of equipment has not been interrupted.

FEDERATION OF GOVERNMENT WORKERS CREATED

PY282131 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 0025 GMT 26 Feb 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 25 Feb (TELAM) -- The Federation on Unions of Government Workers [Confederation de Gremios de Trabajadores Estatales, CGTE] was created today upon the unanimous approval of its charter at a national plenary meeting of delegates which began yesterday and concluded today at the Bauen Hotel in this capital.

Union leader Geronimo Izzetan was named secretary general and Juan Horvath (State Workers Association), deputy secretary general. Horvath said a note will soon be submitted to the Labor Ministry to request the CGTE's legal recognition as a third category organization.

The CGTE, which represents 1.3 million government workers, consists of the Federation of Municipal Workers and Employees, the Union of Municipal Workers and Employees, the State Workers Association, the National Union of Civilian Personnel, the Argentine Federation of Workers of National Universities, the Union of Argentine Teachers, the Union of Workers and Employees of the Secretariat for Minors and Education, the Argentine Judicial Federation, the Association of Technicians and Employees of the Office for Flight Security and Protection, the Association of Workers of the National State-owned Livestock Auction Enterprise [Mercado Nacional de Hacienda].

BIGNONE CONTINUES DIALOGUE WITH FIP, MOLIPO

PY252334 Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1030 GMT 25 Feb 83

[Text] Buenos Aires, 25 Feb (TELAM) -- In a new round of the political dialogue, President Reynaldo Bignone had separate meetings yesterday with the leaders of the Popular Leftist Front (FIP) and the People's Line Movement [Movimiento Linea Popular -- Molipo].

While the former asked the president to dismiss Minister Wehbe and Central Bank President Gonzalez del Solar, believing that this would be much cheaper for the country than to put them on trial within a year, the Molipo preferred to discuss subjects related to the suitability of modifying the Constitution in order to bring it into accord with the true situation of the country.

After the meeting which, like the former ones, took place at the Olivos Residence, the FIP delegation headed by Jorfe Abelardo Ramos stated to the press that it is necesssry to suspend the payment of the foreign debt to British banks until the imperialist invaders abandon the Malvinas Islands.

The FIP leaders also said that it is necessary and urgent to lower the interest rate, combat the dollar black market, open cheap credits for national industry and regional development, and drastically increase the wages of the working class.

They stated that it is imperative to renegotiate, if possible in a common front together with the Latin American countries, the foreign debt to non-British creditors for an interest-free term of 10 years.

They asked that the conflict with Great Britain continue in defense of our territory and showed themselves in favor of expropriating British property and building nuclear submarines, among other things.

They supported the reenactment and enforcement of the 1949 Constitution and asked for the repeal of the institutional acts depriving Mrs Peron, the last constitutional president, and other citizens of their political rights.

Regarding the future electoral law, they asked for the application of the Saens Pena electoral law, with the modification, however, that a clause be inserted making it obligatory that at least 30 percent of all elective posts be filled with women.

In addition to Jorge Abelardo Ramos, the meeting -- which lasted for a little over 3 hours -- was attended by leaders Juan Bertinchi, Luis Cabral, Alberto Gerveroff, Luis Rodriguez, Alberto Giovergia, Luis Gargiulo and Olga Carpas.

Molipo leader Guillermo Acuna Anzorena told the press after the meeting with the president -- which was held before the meeting with the FIP -- that his party had asked the president to adopt a proportional representation system and indirect election of officials in the upcoming elections.

Acuna Anzorena said: We asked for the modification of the Constitution in order to bring it into accord with the true situation of the country. To be exact, we asked for the election of a third senator for the minorities, the shortening of the mandates and the adoption of the provincial electoral systems to the national system. The leader added that, although it was a question of secondary importance, it is the opinion of the party that it is suitable to hold elections as one single act.

When asked if the subject of the missing people had been discussed during the meeting with the president, Acuna Anzorena stated that they pointed out to General Bignone that it was essential to be aware of the serious nature of that problem which the country has experienced and that any measure that may lead to a renewal of confrontation will bring very painful consequences. He added regarding this subject that oblivion is sometimes a need for the survival of the peoples, as long as the best of most feasible measures are taken to make the pain more bearable, in this case for the Argentine people, and to prevent that political use be made of the pain.

He also said that the border problem with Chile had been dealt with and that they prefered that this question be solved by the constitutional government, although all political groups should be informed about everything that has been done, including the papal mediation.

In addition to Acuna Anzorena, the meeting was attended by leaders Eliseo Guanes, Eduardo Galaretto, Hector Panzeri, Jorge Araballo and Luis Carrizo.

Meets With UCD, MDS

PY272141 Buenos Aires BUENOS AIRES HERALD in English 26 Feb 83 p 9

[Text] The head of the Democratic Centre Union, Alvaro Alsogaray, yesterday told President Reynaldo Bignone that his party had nothing to ask the present authorities because "the government is tied up because of the pressure from political parties," while the leader of the Movement for Social Democracy, Emilio Massera, asked the government for "hostilities with Britain over the Malvinas Islands not to stop."

Both leaders met separately with Bignone yesterday afternoon in the last but one of a round of official talks with politicians.

Alsogaray told reporters after a brief one-hour meeting with the president that the only objective of the present military government was to "take the process to an orderly end. To ask the government to do something else is deceptive."

Alsogaray reaffirmed the country "runs a serious risk of facing hyperinflation. But only by the beginning of April will we know if this will happen," he added.

Alsogaray also criticized political parties "who are asking impossible things every day. They ask for the economy to be reactivated but do not say how the goal can be achieved."

He also told reporters that his party had not even touched the issue of disappeared, the Beagle (border conflict) and the Malvinas war. "The issues are too important and we will make the UCD's stance on them known soon," he said.

Later in the afternoon, Bignone met Massera, who was a member of the military junta that ousted the Peronist government of Maria Isabel Peron in 1976.

After the meeting, the former navy commander-in-chief told reporters that his party delegation had asked Bignone for "measures to rectify the official policy so that the government can last till 1984."

Massera aslo called for the lift of the institutional acts, which placed a ban on political activities of several people, including Mrs Peron.

Among the leaders of Massera's party attending yesterday's meeting there were two former Peronist government officials.

GOVERNOR OF MENDOZA PROVINCE RESIGNS POST

PY250214 Buenos Aires Argentina Televisora Color Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 25 Feb 83

[Text] Mendoza Governor Bonifacio Cejuela tonight announced that he had resigned his post and that he will be replaced by Vidart Villanueva, currently provincial minister of public works and services.

COB LEADER RAPS GOVERNMENT'S ECONOMIC POLICY

PY282113 Paris AFP in Spanish 1632 GMT 27 Feb 83

[Excerpt] La Paz, 27 Feb (AFP) -- Juan Lechin Oquendo, executive secretary of the Bolivian Labor Federation (COB) and a staunch personal opponent of President Hernan Siles Zuazo, has charged that the democratic system was being destabilized by the very mistakes made by the government in guiding the national economy. Lechin added that the Democratic and Popular Unity (UDP) government was acting as an ally of imperialism in implementing its economic recovery plan.

Lechin charged the president and two of his ministers with having unleashed the present increase in the cost of living by announcing salary increases and the adoption of new economic measures. According to Lechin, the Bolivian economic crisis was prompted by three factors: "an economic policy which is subordinated to the International Monetary Fund; secondly, the government's aid to private businessmen; and thirdly, the excessive public spending during the military regimes." Lechin added that the only way to prevent more military coups is by reducing the Armed Forces' budget.

PRIVATE BUSINESSMEN REPORT ON ECONOMIC PICTURE

PY260233 Paris AFP in Spanish 1611 GMT 25 Feb 83

[Text] La Paz, 25 Feb (AFP) -- The annual report of the Confederation of Bolivian Private Businessmen, published in La Paz today, states that the consolidation of the democratic process depends on the solution of the most serious of the economic problems facing the country. The document says that the solution can only be made possible by means of implementing the dialogue among the state, the workers and the employers as a step toward finding integral solutions.

The businessmen say that Hernan Siles Zuazo's government left a bitter taste of frustration when the first crisis in the Democratic and Popular Unity ended with six ministers of the Movement of the Revolutionary Left leaving the cabinet. They add that economic prospects are discouraging, since the production of goods and services in 1982 decreased by 12 percent, while the country is in arrears with its foreign obligations.

The document explains that last year's foreign trade was characterized by a sharp 40 percent reduction of imports, while there was a 5 percent slump in exports because of the worldwide economic recession. The businessmen's document also warns that the positive trade balance, estimated at $250 million, does not offer any relief because of the magnitude of foreign indebtedness which will represent 80 percent of the exports this year and reach 100 percent next year.

The report further says that domestic prices have risen 300 percent and that the Bolivian peso has been devaluated 1,000 percent as of last week. The document concludes by noting that unemployment is over 13 percent and that industry is working at 50 percent of its installed capacity.

BRAZIL TO REQUEST ANOTHER BRIDGE LOAN FROM U.S.

PY281900 Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 24 Feb 83 p 31

[Text] Brazil is drafting a new request for a bridge loan [given in English] to be submitted to the U.S. Treasury, to meet it shortage of funds [emergencia de caixa], which is aggravated by the refusal of the International Settlement Bank (BIS) to renegotiate the payment of a $400 million installment of a bridge loan granted last year.

According to Sepaln [Planni..g Secretariat] sources, the new bridge loan will reportedly also have a 90-day deadline, like the $1.5 billion-loan granted during President Ronald Reagan's visit to Brazil, last year. According to what Central Bank President Carlos Langoni said on Monday during a telephone conversation, this loan is being paid "normally." The new bridge loan will be guaranteed by the Brazilian Treasury and negotiated at the same rate that the U.S. Treasury applies in its government-to-government operations.

The decision to resort once again to the U.S. Treasury reportedly came up during a meeting that Ernane Galveas and Delfim Netto held Tuesday at Planalto Palace with their main advisors to discuss the BIS's refusal to postpone the payment of the first installment of the bridge loan granted to Brazil to overcome another shortage of funds. The Central Bank had requested authorization to postpone the payment of the $400 million on 28 February until the end of March, when the second installment is due. However, the BIS answered negatively to the telex sent by Central Bank President Carlos Langoni, who was informed about this in New York where he has been for the past month.

According to the same source, the details of the new bridge loan should be discussed in New York between Ministers Delfim Netto, Ernane Galveas and Central Bank President Carlos Langoni, with U.S. Treasury Secretary Donald Regan. The two ministers travelled yesterday accompanied by the Central Bank Foreign Relations Department director, Jose Carlos Madeira Serrano.

A financial source noted yesterday that "since the Central Bank has been facing the difficulties of a shortage of money since last year, the news that Thursday or Friday its branch in New York stopped honoring commitments with several banks, on the eve of the maxidevaluation of the cruzeiro, is no surprise." According to this same source, it is a fact that Carlos Langoni has been handling the Central Bank's New York branch deciding and selecting which debts will go unpaid."

CENTRAL BANK PRESIDENT DISCUSSES LOAN PACKAGES

PY262240 Rio de Janeiro LATIN AMERICA DAILY POST in English 26 Feb 83 p 1

[Text] Rio de Janeiro (DAILY POST) -- Brazilian Central Bank President Carlos Langoni explained Brazil's current round of foreign loan negotiations in a taped interview with Radio Jornal do Brasil Friday. Excerpts from Langoni's interview:

Question: Would you say the negotiations are going according to plan?

Langoni: Yes. I am, at this moment, on my way to the Plaza Hotel here in New York to sign two important loan agreements for Brazil. The first is for $4.4 billion, the so-called jumbo, loan, which will be used to supplement Brazil's own internal resources for the completion of priority projects. The second loan, for $4 billion, represents the automatic rollover of amortization due on Brazil's foreign debt. These loans were negotiated over an extremely limited period of time. We came to New York on Dec. 21 to make our request and we are signing the loans today. Just to give you an idea, Mexico is still renegotiating its loans and they've been at it since August. I think this reflects the continuing confidence of the international banking community in Brazil's ability to recover.

Question: What about the other two loans Brazil has been seeking?

Langoni: As to loan packages three and four, there will be no formal agreement. These loans represent a bank by bank understanding. Loan package number three has already topped $9.2 billion, $500 million more than our original goal.

These amounts represent extremely important lines of credit Brazil uses to finance its imports and which we also use as credit extended to our export clients. Loan package number four represents so-called interbank credits, money extended as credit to Brazilian banks with branches overseas, principally the Bank of Brazil. Package four has been the most difficult, demanding a tremendous coordination effort. However, I can report that in the last two weeks we have made a great deal of progress in reopening these lines of credit, most of which were cut off in August. So far we have reestablished $1.1 billion in such credits. By Monday we expect to have another $300 to $400 million.

Question: As to package number four, will Brazil end up with the same level of interbank credits it had as of last July?

Langoni: We are basically working toward that goal, but in stages. The first stage was to hit $2 billion, which I think we will achieve by mid March. But we will not stop there. We believe that with the probable announcement of IMF acceptance of Brazil's economic program on Monday, we will have consolidated Brazil's international position, which will undoubtedly facilitate our access to interbank credits.

Question: Do you feel that Brazil will once again be able to obtain loans from small and medium sized banks?

Langoni: Yes, and I think such loans are fundamental. Brazil can't keep going without a steady flow of foreign capital and that capital should not just come from a few big banks.

Question: Do you feel that today's loan package one and loan package two agreements will help convince the IMF board that it should approve Brazil's economic program on Monday?

Langoni: Undoubtedly. The loan agreements will guarantee Brazil's ability to keep its balance of payments in line. They offer proof that Brazil can handle its foreign currency problems and I'm sure the IMF board will take these facts into account when its members meet on Monday.

CARVAJAL CLAIMS ARMS IMPORTS 'AS USUAL'

PY251527 Paris AFP in Spanish 0146 GMT 25 Feb 83

[Text] Santiago, Chile, 24 Feb (AFP) -- Chilean Defense Minister Patricio Carvajal said today that Chile is acquiring arms as usual and in keeping with its programs and the laws of exporting countries.

The defense minister thus denied statements issued in Caracas by the former judge of the Letelier case, Eugene Propper, who charged that Chilean officials in complicity with U.S. businessmen are importing arms into Chile under false names.

He noted: If there are some irregularities in the process of exporting arms, it is the authorities of the exporting countries who should avoid these irregularities.

Carvajal added that we have no knowledge of any Chilean being involved in any irregularities of this sort. There have been no formal charges made in this regard. It is simply a case of crimes committed by officials of exporting countries.

He noted that it is up to the officials of these exporting countries to stop any shipments that are not in keeping with the laws. We are not guilty of anything.

Moreover, he denied charges made by Propper that a Chilean official in Washington had offered him $100,000 not to publish the book "Labyrinth" on the assassination of Orlando Letelier, who was killed in a bomb attack in Washington on 21 September 1976.

Vice Admiral Carvajal noted: What kind of judge would accept as evidence an anonymous phone call offering him a bribe? Propper's attitude shows that his charges are groundless.

STATE OF EMERGENCY EXTENDED AS OF 1 MARCH

PY261943 Santiago Domestic Service in Spanish 1630 GMT 26 Feb 83

[Text] The state of emergency has been extended for another 90 days as of 1 March. The Interior Ministry's legal measure was published in today's official bulletin.

The same legal measure also names the commanders of the emergency zones, provinces and towns. the following persons have been named: first region, Brig Gen Jorge Alejandro Dowling Santamaria; second and third regions Brig Gen Alfredo Orlando Calderon Campusano; Fourth, fifth and six regions (except Valparaiso and San Antonio Provinces and Easter Island) Maj Gen Osvaldo Hernandez Pedreros; Valparaiso Province and Easter Island Vice Adm Luis de los Rios Echeverria; Metropolitan region and San Antonio Province Maj Gen Hector Orozco Sepulveda; seventh and eight regions (except Talcahuano, Penco and Tome municipalities) Brig Gen Eduardo Ibanez Tilleria; Talcahuano, Penco and Tome municipalities Vice Adm Osvaldo Schwarzenberg; ninth and tenth regions (except Llanquihue and Chilhoe) Brig Gen (Carlos del Carmen Lopez Silva); Llanquihue and Chilhoe Air Force Brig Gen Sergio Humberto Pineiro Correa; eleventh region Col (Carlos Rubot Molina); twelfth region Maj Gen Juan Guillermo Toro Davila.

FINANCE MINISTER COMMENTS ON COURT RULING

PA251237 Bogota Emisoras CARACOL Network in Spanish 1215 GMT 24 Feb 83

[Station interview with Finance Minister Edgar Gutierrez Castro in Bogota on 23 February -- recorded]

[Excerpts] [Question] What is your opinion of the Supreme Court of Justice ruling?

[Answer] I am somewhat surprised by the court's decision regarding the economic measures; however, it is a decision we must accept in good faith, and as typical of our democratic institutions. However, we must continue preparing new alternatives to carry on with the government's programs and plans. We realize that the country's fiscal situation is difficult and needs measures like those contained in the economic measures. The government is interested in having Congress discuss all these bills that for one reason or another are considered unconstitutional by the Supreme Court of Justice. We are going to do this as soon as possible to prevent any uncertainty. We are sure that during the special sessions the government will call Congress will give the situation the importance that the government has given it since the beginning of the discussion of the economic measures.

[Question] Doesn't the government fear that the bills will be distorted in spirit and philosophy by Congress?

[Answer] No, we trust this will not happen if we give Congress all the information and make all the explanations that led the government to issue the emergency measures.

[Question] The court's ruling was only on one of the decrees; but according to the court, the government should not resort to article 122 of the Constitution to issue tax measures. Does this mean that all the other decrees are canceled, although they have not been discussed?

[Answer] This is implied, and it means that a very drastic change has taken place in the Supreme Court of Justice's attitude on this subject. The government thought the Supreme Court of Justice was going to vote in favor of the package of emergency decrees. I have not read the ruling yet. That is why I don't wish to comment. However, if this is the situation, we will have to submit the bills to Congress and go through debates on the measures that we consider of great importance for the country's economic health.

[Question] There are some people who think the government should devalue the peso immediately because of the effect that the devaluation of the Bolivar will have on our currency. What is your opinion?

[Answer] The country's exchange policy does not depend only on what occurs at the border. There is the rest of the country to take into consideration, too. I feel that Colombia should not act hastily in this very delicate area of the country's economic policy. The government's policy has been to handle with extreme care its currency exchange policy. We are not going to change now. We are not going to subject the country's economy to abrupt changes just because of what is happening on the border. We are going to take the necessary measures to prevent a deterioration of the situation that could affect the employment situation there.

RODRIGUEZ SEES 'STRATEGY TO DESTROY OPEC'

PA260237 Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 25 Feb 83

[Text] Ecuadorean Foreign Minister Luis Valencia Rodriguez said in Cartagena, Colombia, that the present international oil market price crisis is part of the developed countries' strategy to destroy OPEC. He added, however, that OPEC is not in danger of disappearing despite its internal difficulties that arise from its inability to prevent a price reduction.

The Ecuadorean foreign minister also spoke of his government's proposal that area countries take a joint position in facing the international economic crisis.

OFFICIALS DISCUSS HURTADO'S ECONOMIC INITIATIVE

PA250313 Quito Cadena Ecuador Radio in Spanish 0300 GMT 23 Feb 83

[Text] President Oswaldo Hurtado Larrea and the executive secretaries of ECLA and SELA, Enrique Iglesias and Carlos Alzamora, met today to agree on an economic plan for a regional response to the international economic crisis.

After a 1-hour meeting, the secretaries announced that their two regional organizations fully support the Ecuadorean president's proposal and will back him in carrying out the plan to formulate a Latin American response to the international crisis.

[Begin recording -- in progress] [Alzamora] ... bow of recognition and admiration for President Hurtado's initiative that brought us to Quito today.

We believe that in the face of the serious world and regional economic situation, Latin America needs to provide an answer, not just to the world crisis but to the Latin American crisis, which is due to a great extent to the failure to develop a capacity for response.

We believe that that initiative, at this time and under these circumstances, is truly valuable and should therefore receive all efforts, competence and dedication from our institutions and from us personally in order to respond to the Ecuadorean president's confidence in us. [end recording]

Public Information Secretary Ernesto Alban Gomez, after highlighting the importance of the visit by these two international dignitaries, explained that the plan for formulating a regional economic response to the present international crisis is independent of the economic effort that every government is making. He said that if there is no positive answer from the Latin Americans, it will be very difficult to improve the situation of each individual country.

The government official said that the industrialized countries should see this Latin American proposal as a warning to call their attention to the fact that they should consider the developing countries' realities, problems and situations.

[Begin recording -- in progress] [Alban] ... independent of the work that each government carries out in the economic sphere for the renegotiation of its debt or for any other reason. I do not believe that they are mutually exclusive.

[Question] Is the president seeking solidarity in this economic renegotiation effort?

[Answer] Economic problems do not end with renegotiation. I think all Ecuadoreans and all Latin Americans should understand that clearly. Renegotiation is a phase. We are faced with economic problems that are much more broad and complex. Therefore, we Ecuadoreans must realize that we will have problems, because the problems will not end with renegotiation. Therefore, the proposal continues to be opportune, no matter what is done in that specific area.

[Question] What will be the consequence of President Hurtado's proposal abroad, in the developed countries?

[Answer] I think that for the developed countries, a joint Latin American initiative has to be a warning, a call for their attention. The economy of the industrialized countries cannot exist alone. It must take into account the realities, the problems, the situation of the developing countries. I think that this awareness has increased, but it is not sufficiently ingrained that initiatives and situations are examined multilaterally. The world's problems are no longer just problems of the developed countries, or of an industrial economic center, whether capitalist or socialist. The problems of the world are absolutely interlinked. We have seen the situation get to such a harsh, serious point that one economic problem can lead to a critical world situation. In this regard, I believe that President Hurtado's initiative has to be received, analyzed, weighed and accepted by the developed countries.

[Question] What if it is not accepted by the Latin American countries for any reason? What alternative is there?

[Answer] I hope there will be a positive reply. I think, as I was saying a few moments ago, that there is a favorable climate for joint action in Latin America. [end recording]

BRIEFS

WORLD BANK LOAN -- The World Bank and Ecuador have signed an agreement on a $40.6 million loan for use to support small industry. The funds will be administered by the National Financial Corporation, which indicated that 10,000-12,000 jobs will be created through the establishment of some 500 manufacturing plants and the improvement of 1,500 already existing firms. The loan documents were signed by the Ecuadorean ambassador in the United States. [Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 24 Feb 83 PA]

JAPANESE GOVERNMENT CREDIT -- The Japanese Government has granted a line of credit for approximately $100 million for the National Financial Corporation. This credit will be used for a pulp and paper project in Esmeraldas Province. [Quito Voz de los Andes in Spanish 1130 GMT 25 Feb 83 PA]

MONTANARO DISCUSSES RETURN OF POLITICAL EXILES

PY251838 Asuncion HOY in Spanish 22 Feb 83 p 7

[Interview by Paraguayan Interior Minister Sabino Augusto Montanaro granted to Ceri Smith -- undated]

[Excerpts] Asuncion, 21 Feb -- Paraguayan Interior Minister Sabino Montanaro has said that the exiled politicians may return to Paraguay one by one, but not in a group. He excluded one whom he called "mentally unbalanced" and another for having links with communism.

According to Montanaro, the "mentally unbalanced" politician is Luis Resck, the founder of the Christian Democratic Party, while the one having links with Marxism is the renowned writer Augusto Roa Bastos.

Montanaro, who has been interior minister for 15 years, justified the long-standing enforcement of the state of siege with the fear that "acts of subversion may occur and then we would have to again decree" a state of siege, which has been in force since Stroessner assumed power in 1954.

Regarding Domingo Laino, leader of the Authentic Radical Liberal Party, expelled from the country for having published a book hostile to the late Nicaraguan dictator Anastasio Somoza, Montanaro said that he was "dangerous becasue of his connections with leftist elements in other countries."

He stated that Laino, whose book was confiscated by the government, had links in Argentina with the Marxist People's Revolutionary Army and with the leftist Peronist guerrillas, the so-called Montoneros.

He said that the reason for Laino's expulsion was that he had painted the walls of the streets with political slogans which were looked upon as "the beginning of a destabilization campaign against the government."

When asked about the reason why the Christian Democratic Party is not officially recognized, Montanaro stated that it depends on the courts which the government "cannot force to make a decision, since the judicial branch is independnet."

Montanaro also doubted that the Christian Democrats had even a 1-percent share of electorate and claimed that the founder of the party Luis Resck was expelled because he is "mentally unbalanced" and "an agitator for rebellion."

He accused Resck of organizing the students to "rise against the government" and that, according to the intelligence services, they were preparing acts of subversion. For that reason "we expelled Resck as a preventive measure."

He stated that another exile, the writer Augusto Roa Bastos, has connections with Soviet and Cuban "elements." "His friends and allies are the communists in Argentina, Uruguay, Peru, Colombia and Venezuela, even those in Spain and France."

He said that Roa Bastos "came here and intended to give lectures at a high school and a university. So before he started indoctrinating the youth to organize guerrilla forces or rise against the government, we expelled him from the country."

When Roa Bastos protested his expulsion, the government stated that a document from the U.S. intelligence service showed that the writer had traveled to Cuba twice in the 1960's although Roa Bastos denied having visited that country.

Montanaro stated that the other exiles may return to the country, even the dissidents of the governing Colorado Party, but that they should do so "one by one, not in a group in order to prevent riots and so that we will be able to control their activities."

He denied that those expelled from the country are the legitimate leaders of the Colorado Party, because "we were elected by 500 convention delegates at an open convention," and therefore the exiles should recognize the party leadership that exists in the country.

He claims that there is only one political prisoner in Paraguay, namely Lic Ruben Dario Veron, who had organized the occupation of private land by "people of scant economic means."

He stated that he is only in temporary detention, adding that his case and those of other people detained under the state of siege are not submitted to the courts, because "they declare themselves innocent and the courts release them at once."

He added: "The judicial branch is independent; it does what they want and releases them. Democracy cannot be defended with a weak government."

Montanaro denied that the former Nazi leader Josef Mengele is in Paraguay, but he admitted that he lived here until the 1960's.

He rejected statements by the "Nazi hunter" Simon Wiesenthal that Mengele is still in Paraguay and asserted that Wiesenthal "is angry with the Nazis and the fascists because they were the first to stand up against Russia."

When it was hinted that the anger might have been caused by the death of 6 million Jews at the hands of the Nazis, Montanaro replied: "That is history. Let history judge that in the next 100 years."

Doldan Reaction

PY252322 Asuncion ABC COLOR in Spanish 24 Feb 83 p 7

[Text] On referring to the statements made by the interior minister some days ago to the effect that one exile would be authorized to return at a time, Radical Senator Enzo A. Doldan stated that "Dr Montanaro's statement made no sense.

"His statements make no sense because Dr Montanaro is the interior minister and for this reason he more than any one else should perform his functions under the Constitution and the laws," Doldan added.

In conclusion, Doldan stated that "the exiles should be allowed to return, not whenever the interior minister feels like it, but when the laws guarantee their return and they enjoy all the rights and guarantees provided for by the laws. The fact that this decision is made by the interior minister is a typical example of a dictatorship, which we are so used to seeing in Latin America."

SCHWALB, RODRIGUEZ TO VISIT U.S., SEEK LOANS

PY242312 Paris AFP in Spanish 1752 GMT 24 Feb 83

[Excerpts] Lima, 24 Feb (AFP) -- Peruvian Prime Minister Fernando Schwalb and Economy Minister Carlos Rodriguez Pastor will travel to the United States tomorrow, Friday, trying to obtain there $1-billion in credit which is urgently needed. The two ministers will also travel to Europe and Japan to negotiate supplementary loans, it was reported today in Lima.

Minister Schwalb warned that without such loans Peru would face an unprecedented crisis, with runaway inflation, shrinking GDP [Gross Domestic Product], massive unemployment, drastic reduction of real personal income and a disruptive delay of the development process.

Schwalb, who was ambassador to the United States until he assumed his new post early in January, said that credits must be sought for the payment of $450 million in foreign debt immediately due and to cover $800 million of the total current account deficit of $900 million, whose balance of $100 million will be covered with part of Peru's foreign reserves. He also said that his government will try to secure $2-billion in foreign loans in order to service short-term foreign commitments and to make funds available for development programs, thus sparing the country's foreign reserves.

The two ministers tersely stated that their trip is related to the country's needs for external financing, but progovernment Senator Gaston Acurio, president of the Joint Congressional Budget Committee, specified that the country's needs amount to $1.4 billion. Senator Acurio added that this amount is necessary to put the total foreign debt completely in order, but that $1 billion will be sufficient to pay the interest on the short-term foreign debt, while delaying payments on the principal.

Peru's total foreign debt, both public and private, amounts to $11 billion of which, according to authoritative sources, $1,908,000,000 will have to be repaid this year, more than the $1,338,000,000 paid last year. According to the president of the Central Reserve Bank, Richard Webb, Peru's international reserves stand between $820 and $830 million, and they are expected to remain at that level because, although the price of exportable oil has declined, the price of exportable copper and silver has climbed slightly. The opinion in economic circles is that, if the ministers are not successful in their mission, the Belaunde government will not just put up with a disrupting crisis, but will seek the refinancing of the foreign debt as recommended by the opposition parties, although Belaunde does not favor that move.

REPRESENTATIVES TO NEW DELHI MEETING APPOINTED

PY251342 Paris AFP in Spanish 1036 GMT 25 Feb 83

[Text] Lima, 24 Feb (AFP) -- It was officially announced in Lima last night that Vice President Javier Alva Orlandini and former Prime Minister Manuel Ulloa Elias will represent Peru at the nonaligned conference to be held in New Delhi next month.

Considering that both Alva Orlandini and Ulloa are senators, President of the Council of Ministers Fernando Schwalb today asked the Permanent Commission of the Congress to grant the authorization necessary for the two senators to leave the country.

FOREIGN MINISTER RETURNS FROM COLOMBIA 28 FEB

PY281759 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] Foreign Minister Carlos Maeso returned from Colombia at midday today. He traveled to that country in order to attend the ministerial preparatory meeting for the 6th UNCTAD conference. Mr Maeso will probably report on the results of his trip to President Gregorio Alvarez tomorrow.

TERRORIST ARRESTED WHILE TRYING TO FLEE COUNTRY

PY281757 Montevideo Radio El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Relay from Montevideo police headquarters]

[Text] A communique just released reports that a female terrorist, (Ana Patricia Rona Grussi), 28, was arrested a few days ago while trying to leave the country aboard a ship covering the regular Montevideo-Buenos Aires route. (Rona Grussi), who appeared before a military court, was sentenced on charges of having violated the Constitution by undertaking conspirational actions. (Rona Grussi), who lived at 1357 La Cumparsita Street, apartment 502, was wanted by the military courts.

OVER 1,000 EVACUATED BECAUSE OF FLOODS 26 FEB

PY282121 Montevideo El Espectador Network in Spanish 1600 GMT 26 Feb 83

[Excerpt] The flood situation in Artigas is critical and over 1,000 persons have been evacuated. A special command, which is to be coordinated by the mayor, has been established to coordinate rescue operations in Artigas. Across from the Brazilian town of El Quarai, almost 200 persons were also evacuated this morning. In Rivera the situation is also critical while in Salto, the port area is flooded. For the time being, Highway No 3 in the Quebracho sector in Paysandu is cut-off. Officials fear that the floods may increase due to over 200 millimeters of rainfall in Bella Union.

BRIEFS

UNEMPLOYMENT FIGURES -- An official report states that the rate of unemployment totaled 11.7 percent during July-(?September) 1982 and 13.7 percent during October-December 1982. [Montevideo El Espectador in Spanish 1600 GMT 28 Jan 83 PY]

COST OF LIVING INCREASES -- Montevideo, 12 Feb (AFP) -- The National Board of Statistics and Census revealed here today that the cost of living in Uruguay has increased 15.42 percent during the first quarter of 1983, only 5 percent less than the overall inflation of 1982. [Paris AFP in Spanish 1249 GMT 12 Feb 83 PY]

CENTRAL BANK PRESIDENT'S RESIGNATION REPORTED

PA281817 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1401 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] Caracas, 28 Feb (EFE) -- Leopoldo Diaz Bruzual, president of the Central Bank of Venezuela, resigned from his post today, in disagreement with the decision to modify the exchange rate of the Bolivar adopted this morning by the Council of Ministers. Diaz Bruzual, whose resignation has not been officially confirmed, heads the sector of bank technicians who were in favor of a devaluation of the Bolivar to confront the critical situation caused by the recent flight of capital, the drop in oil revenues and reduced international reserves.

A government group headed by Finance Minister Arturo Sosa, who favored the control of the exchange rate and opposed the devaluation, rejected the Central Bank president's idea.

Diaz Bruzual had reiterated his flat opposition to any modification of the exchange rate with a multiple parity, feeling that it might seriously compromise international reserves and, furthermore, also lend itself to speculation maneuvers.

Mauricio Garcia Araujo, an economist, and Carlos Cordido Valery a businessman, have been mentioned as possible candidates to replace Bruzual as bank president.

Herrera Denies Resignation

PA281939 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1848 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Excerpt] Caracas, 28 Feb (EFE) -- The Venezuelan president today denied reports about the alleged resignation of Leopoldo Diaz Bruzual as president of the Central Bank. Approached by a group of newsmen after inaugurating a municipal center in Caracas, President Luis Herrera Campins responded that Diaz Bruzual "has not resigned." Local media had reported that the president of the Central Bank had resigned as a result of the decision adopted this morning by the government to modify the exchange rate of the Bolivar.

ANTILLES MINISTER-PRESIDENT ON HERRERA VISIT

PA260051 Caracas Radio Continente Network in Spanish 2100 GMT 25 Feb 83

[By (Freddy Baptista)]

[Text] This is (Freddy Baptista) speaking from Curacao. Domenico Martina, minister president of the Netherlands Antilles, said during an exclusive interview for Radio Continente that although the monetary measures recently implemented by Venezuelan Government affect the Netherlands Antilles, his government respects the Venezuelan Government's decision. Here is Minister President Martina's statement for Radio Continente:

[Begin Martina recording] We are very happy to have President Luis Herrera Campins visit us. The people of Curacao, Bonaire and Aruba will give President Herrera Campins and his retinue a warm welcome. I am sure that we are going to increase our personal, cultural, social and commercial ties with Venezuela. We are going to talk about matters of general interest, currency exchange, the development of energy programs, the future of the Netherlands Antilles, aviation and other issues. In relations to Venezuela's recent monetary measures, our government respects them even if they affect our economy. [end recording]

NEW OIL PRICES FORTHCOMING IN EARLY MARCH

FL281330 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0235 GMT 27 Feb 83

[Text] Mexico City, 26 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- Francisco Labastida Ochoa, secretary of energy, mines and state-run industry [title as received], stressed here today that the new Mexican oil prices will be established in March. Labastida Ochoa returned from a tour of France and the United Kingdom tonight.

The official, who held five meetings with oil ministers from Kuwait, Algeria, the United Kingdom and Venezuela, stated that important agreements might result from these talks but added that he will inform President Miguel de la Madrid Hurtado about them first. Labastida Ochoa did not affirm or deny that the Mexican oil prices might decrease or increase but noted that an announcement will be made early in March once the results of his tour are analyzed.

In due time, Mexico will establish the prices of its oil but I cannot say what the direction will be, the energy secretary said. Labastida Ochoa returned to Mexico aboard a Pemex plane. He was accompaned by Energy Under Secretary Elieso Mendoze Barrueto and Adrian Lajus, Pemex's director for international marketing.

EDITORIAL CRITICIZES U.S. LATIN AMERICAN POLICY

PA281620 Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 21 Feb 83 p 6-A

[Editorial: "Wrong Way"]

[Text] President Reagan believes, perhaps in good faith, that the United States has the inevitable moral obligation of rearming itself and increasing its military strength to face the Soviet Union, "which is challenging Washington in its own house, on its own continent." Reagan has quoted U.S. President George Washington, saying: "The best way to maintain peace is to be prepared for war."

Let us analyze this position. As long as he thinks that his obligation is to arm and not to disarm, we will continue on the road to self-destruction. As long as the president of the neighboring country to the north believes that this continent is "his house," we will not make any true advance in the field of respect for the peoples' sovereignty.

It is one thing to say that his nation is on this continent, and quite another to say that this continent is his. Events of concern to Reagan could result from a challenge from the Soviets, but such events could also result from economic and political unrest on the part of the Latin American peoples.

Producers affected by low prices, consumers suffering because of high prices, a captive market, ideal conditions for the proliferation of transnationals and chronic technological underdevelopment -- all this makes the Latin American countries fertile grounds for unrest. If instead of seeing these countries as partners and friends they are looked at as a backyard, then these countries will represent a risk for the American power.

Would it not be better to keep peace by improving the standard of living rather than the number of weapons? Throughout the years it has been evident that, contrary to what Washington has said, arms have served to provoke war, not safeguard peace.

CLOSED-DOOR ECONOMIC TALKS HELD WITH NICARAGUA

FL282350 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 2142 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] Mexico City, 28 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- Foreign Secretary Bernardo Sepulveda Amor today presided over an economic cooperation ministerial meeting with Nicaragua. The close-door meeting addressed the situation in the world oil price level and overall economic cooperation between the two countries, according to the announcement. The Nicaraguan delegation was headed by Henry Ruiz, Nicaraguan planning minister, who will remain here for 4 days.

DEFENSE SECRETARY REPORTS ON ANTIDRUG CAMPAIGN

FL010205 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 1847 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Excerpt] So far this year, the Mexican Army has destroyed narcotics with a street value of 3,571,000,000 pesos ($2.35 billion), General Juan Arevalo Gardoqui, secretary of defense, has announced.

Following a meeting with President Miguel de la Madrid at the National Palace, the secretary pointed out that the antidrug campaign had accomplished the destruction of 440 hectares of poppy plantings and 203 hectares of marijuana. He said they also burned 2.6 tons of marijuana and a little over 6 kilos of cocaine. He explained that they had also detained 192 native drug traffickers and 3 foreigners from who they confiscated 11 vehicles, 117 firearms, 4 loaders and 570 rounds of assorted calibers.

BRIEFS

AMBASSADOR TO USSR -- Paris, 28 Feb (NOTIMEX) -- Former Mexican ambassador to France, Horacio Flores de la Pena today vacated his post to take the post as Mexican ambassador to the Soviet Union. Former Foreign Secretary Jorge Castaneda, who was appointed ambassador to France last January, should arrive here in the next few days. [Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish 0034 GMT 1 Mar 83 FL]

AMBASSADORIAL APPOINTMENTS -- The Secretariat of Foreign Affairs has announced new ambassadorial appointments. Ignacio Ovalle Fernandez has been appointed ambassador to Argentina, Luisa Maria Leal Duk has been appointed ambassador to Costa Rica, and Pilar Saldivar y Fernandez del Valle has been appointed ambassador to the Dominican Republic. [Mexico City EXCELSIOR in Spanish 29 Jan 83 p 12-A PA]

LABOR CONGRESS PRESIDENT -- Napoleon Gomez Sada, new president of the Labor Congress (CT), took office at a ceremony attended by Mexican President Miguel de la Madrid. Gomez Sada said he will struggle for salary increases and an effective price control policy. [Mexico City UNOMASUNO in Spanish 29 Jan 83 pp 1, 6 PA]

CAMPAIGN AGAINST SCHOOL OF THE AMERICAS PLANNED

PA282327 Panama City LA ESTRELLA DE PANAMA in Spanish 28 Feb 83 p 48

[From "The Griper" column]

[Text] Next Campaign

The local left is warming up its motors against the School of the Americas. It is about to unleash an all-out campaign against that institution where military officers of the continent receive specialized trainirg.

WASHINGTON REPONSE TO PAREDES LETTER REPORTED

PA281600 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 27 Feb 83 p 1

[By Migdalia Fuentes]

[Text] Judging from information obtained in Washington by this newspaper, diplomatic relations between the United States and Panama seem to have taken a new turn. Aquilino Boyd, Panamanian ambassador in the United States, was recently summoned to the State Department to be told about the U.S. Government's stand on the letter that General Ruben Dario Paredes sent to Ambassador Everett Briggs last week. According to the source, Central American Affairs Director L. Craig Johnstone told Panama's representative Argentina Vial that the State Department feels there is no justification for General Paredes' letter, which was "insulting" to Ambassador Briggs, who is U.S. President Ronald Reagan's personal representative in Panama.

It has been learned that the State Department spokesman reitereated that Ambassador Briggs' activities fell within the framework of normal diplomatic activity. It has also been learned that Ambassador Boyd, who was on another mission in New York, did not attend the meeting. According to the source, who asked that its name not be disclosed, the spokesman said that Panama must now issue some public communication reaffirming its trust and faith in Ambassador Briggs.

ILLUECA ON LATIN AMERICAN SECURITY, PAREDES LETTER

PA261545 Panama City Telemetro Television in Spanish 0100 GMT 26 Feb 83

[Report on station interview with Panamanian Vice President Jorge Illueca -- date and place of interview not given]

[Text] Panamanian Vice President Jorge Illueca has granted an exclusive interview to "Telemetro Reports." Referring to his recent trip to Argentina, Jorge Illueca said that he met with the various sectors of that fraternal southern country. He termed as "unfortgettable" the unity that exists between the two peoples and the honors bestowed on our country by Argentina. He emphasized that the Panamanian position in support of the Argentine cause regarding the Malvinas has become strengthened.

[Begin Illueca recording] It might be appropriate to avail myself of this opportunity Channel 13 is offering to say that Latin America has great interest in Argentina and in Central America, and Panama is anxious to see their problems solved through peaceful means: dialogue and conciliation. That is what we expressed in Argentina. Our visit was a peaceful visit. If we demand respect for the United Nations resolutions that compel Great Britain to negotiate with Argentina, it is because we insist that these negotiations will eventually lead to the British withdrawal from the Malvinas, as this is a sovereign Argentine territory.

Since this is the year of Simon Bolivar's bicentennial, we have also issued a call to commemorate the glorious liberating armies: the United Liberating Army of Bolivar and the Andean Army of San Martin. The security of Latin America rests on its own resources. That is why the fact of choosing to negotiate, as in the case of Argentina and Great Britain, does not mean a carte blanche to allow an anachronic and colonial staus quo to prevail there, because it is repudiated by the entire world. That is why we also say it is necessary for the Latin American countries to establish their own security and defense systems. Likewise, if an unreasonable time elapses, then it will be time for a coordinated action by all the Latin American countries to evict the colonialists from the American lands. This position is quite clear: Negotiation and peace if they desire to negotiate for peace; otherwise, it will be necessary to resort to that supreme resource that all nations have at their disposal, which is taking steps to end an illegitimate, illegal and repudiated situation that is condemned by the international community. [end recording]

Regarding the Panamanian candidacy for him to be president of the United Nations General Assembly during the 38th period of sessions in September 1983, Illueca said this is due to the fact that this year the position falls to a Latin American nation, that this year we will commemorate the bicentennial of Simon Bolivar and that Panama is a Bolivarian country that was host for the Amphictyonic Congress. Therefore, there is nothing more logical than for Panama to aspire to this distinction, since during the congress convoked by Bolivar in our country they established the background for the United Nations. Regarding the support for the Panamanian candidacy, Vice President Illueca said:

[Begin recording] Panama has what I would term overwhelming support from Latin America, because it has the support of the largest sister nations, including Argentina, Brazil, Mexico, Venezuela, Peru and Colombia, the Andean countries; all the Central American countries; and some of the Caribbean countries, including Haiti, Suriname and Belize. There is also another candidacy: the representative of the Bahamas. Ambassador (Hebul) is a distinguished person; however, if the Latin American group -- which is the one that will present the candidate -- does not reach a decision, then it will be the assembly that will decide on the candidacy. So far, the support for Panama in and out of Latin America makes us think that ours is a strong candidacy that stands a good chance. Nevertheless, no one can say the last word -- as in any political affair -- until the day arrives. [laughs] [end recording]

Finally, on the recent incidents that led to a note and subsequent declarations by General Paredes regarding the actions of U.S. Ambassador Everett Briggs, the Panamanian vice president said:

[Begin recording] [Illueca] I feel the statements made by National Guard Commander General Ruben Dario Paredes in the name of the General Staff constitute an institutional action. The General Staff members, led by the general, are thinking, responsible professionals who have criteria on which to base their judgments. In this regard, the Panamanian Foreign Ministry and the executive branch have considered General Paredes' comments and -- using the most harmonious terms, since it is to Panama's interest to have harmonious relations with all the countries in this hemisphere, particularly with the United States, a country with which we have very special relations -- we must say that the position of the executive branch and the Panamanian Foreign Ministry is one of absolute identification and unity with the idea of enforcing the sovereign rights, dignity and majesty of the nation. In these circumstances, I am sure that the Panamanian Foreign Ministry will inform the U.S. ambassador and the personnel of his embassy -- this is a matter of diplomatic practice, of customary rules that are respected in all countries -- that the position of the Panamanian executive branch is one of absolute identification with our institutions.

It is the duty of the National Guard to safeguard national defense and public security, and, logically, the reaction that has been generated within the National Guard by certain actions that are considered to be interference with the guard has been considered by the executive branch. The citizenry must understand that the executive branch, on questions of sovereignty, independence and dignity, maintains the highest image, particularly when it involves its armed institutions, which is one of the symbols of the republic's dignity.

[Question] Mr Vice President, would you like to add anything more for Channel 13 viewers?

[Answer] I wish to add the following, to state to the Panamian nation that President Ricardo de la Espriella, the members of the Cabinet, as well as all the public organizations and I, want to serve the country, to respond to its ideals, its aspirations and its genuine national interests. We are on that path. Logically, the support that the citizenry gives to the government will always contribute to the best conduct of public affairs and our harmonious national development. [end recording]

BANANA COMPANY, STRIKING WORKERS REACH AGREEMENT

PA241914 Panama City LA PRENSA in Spanish 24 Feb 83 p 10A

[Text] Several agreements on the better performance of banana farm tasks were signed after 73 hours of intense negotiations between the Chiriqui Land Company and its workers. The national government mediated these negotiations. Mr Russell Caid, the company's general manager, participated in the negotiations, which began earlier this week. Agreements were reached on harvesting the fruit, the cleanup of the plantations and the bagging of the fruit. It is worth noting that these recent negotiations, held yesterday, Wednesday, sought to protect this important economic sector. The handling of the chemical bags was also discussed. This was a problematic issue, as dissatisfaction had been voiced over the need for overtime. Fortunately, the negotiations led to a solution.

THREE PARTIES MEET REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

PA282007 Panama City Televisora Nacional in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] An authorized spokesman for the Electoral Tribunal today confirmed that the Labor Party (PALA), led by Carlos Eleta Almaran, has surpassed the number of registered members required by law for the official registration of a political party. The Electoral Tribunal spokesman said unofficially that PALA has approximately 35,000 registered members.

Meanwhile, the Authentic Panamenista Party is now at El Rancho Gardens celebrating its official registration. The registration requirement was met yesterday on the second day of the party's membership drive. Dr Arnulfo Arias Madrid's followers rode in a caravan from the electoral tribunal to El Rancho Gardens this afternoon for the celebration.

Finally, spokesmen from the "Toti-Buchismo" splinter group of the Panamenista party told TV Channel 2 that they passed the 32,000 mark today. The "Toti-Buchistas" received a great deal of support in the provinces of Colon, Panama and Los Santos and, according to their statements, more than they expected in Chiriqui.

The Panamenistas, led by "Toty" Suarez [Luis Suarez] and "Bucho" Pinzon [Alonso Pinzon] had resumed their membership drive last Monday with a total of 24,280 supporters.

COSTA RICA

NEWSMEN CITE SANDINIST ABUSES ON SAN JUAN RIVER

PA281933 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 24 Feb 83 p 10-A

[Text] Armed Sandinist authorities seized the notes and a recorder of two local journalists who were in a boat on the San Juan River. Alleging security reasons, the Nicaraguan military authorities forced LA NACION newsman Edgar Fonseca and Jose Angel Moya, director of a radio newscast in San Carlos, to surrender their material. Despite the newsmen's protests, Mario Castillo, a photographer for this newspaper, was also forced to turn over his rolls of film.

The three men had traveled to the border area to check on the abuses that the Sandinists allegedly commit, which are frequently denounced by the local people.

Tour

The newsmen yesterday sailed along the mouth of the Sarapiqui River until they reached the San Juan River. Their boat was manned by Jorge Gamboa Marin and Eugenio Hernandez Alvarez. When they reached the river's mouth around 1230, they met the Nicaraguan authorities' requirement anyone navigating the San Juan River must identify himself at a post they maintain there.

When they got there, the Sandinists were checking a group of U.S. tourists who had been taken to the area by the local Swiss travel company. This firm always stops its boat so the Nicaraguans can check its passengers. They have been doing this for some time now.

When the Sandinists noticed that our photographer taking pictures of the area, they warned him that he had to turn over his rolls of film. Meanwhile, the recorder that journalist Moya uses in his newscast was seized. Fonseca was forced to turn over his notes. He even had to turn over the notes he took during an interview with Commander Juan Carlos Urey, the Nicaraguan military chief in the area. During the interview, Urey had said that they will continue to control navigation on the San Juan under orders from Managua.

The Sandinists have an important military garrison at that spot. It has been estimated that at least 100 men with modern machineguns currently man the area. Meanwhile, the Costa Rican people complain about the treatment they receive from the Nicaraguan authorities, arguing that "now the free navigation treaty is worthless."

EXTRADITION TREATY WITH U.S. SENT TO ASSEMBLY

PA281234 San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 21 Feb 83 P 8A

[Text] Our country is no longer and will never again be a refuge for fugitives from criminal justice from any country of the world. The remark was made by President Luis Alberto Monge, Foreign Minister Fernando Volio and Justice Minister Carlos Jose Gutierrez in asking the deputies to approve the new extradition treaty between Costa Rica and the United States.

The new treaty was signed by Presidents Monge and Reagan at the National Theater on the occasion of Reagan's visit to San Jose on 4 December 1982. "For us the agreement represents one more step in line with the ethical values that will be fully realized in the present government." they added. The agreement was submitted to the assembly with the hope that it will be approved during the current period of special sessions ending on 7 April.

"It is important to note that this treaty has been signed by the two presidents," added the text sent to congress. "The fact that the two chiefs of state signed the treaty rather than acting through representatives is a clear demonstration of the friendship that exists between the two peoples who, in spite of their enormous difference in size, share a common ideal of democratic fervor and respect for the law," said Monge.

The president added that "this community of ideals has permitted us always to coexist in harmony, and has led to the fact that in the crisis Costa Rica is currently experiencing it has been the United States that has provided the most aid."

The text to be approved by the assembly discards the system of a specific list of crimes for which extradition may be requested and granted. It is replaced by a general formula that authorizes its application for all crimes punishable by the laws of both countries with prison terms of more than 1 year.

EL SALVADOR

GUERRILLAS ANNOUNCE CEASE-FIRE FOR POPE'S VISIT

PA281854 Paris AFP in Spanish 1839 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] Mexico City, 28 Feb (AFP) -- The FMLN and the Revolutionary Democratic Front [FDR] today announced that the Salvadoran insurgent forces will observe a cease-fire during the visit to El Salvador by Pope John Paul II.

More on FMLN Cease-Fire

PA282020 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1955 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] Mexico City, 28 Feb (EFE) -- Six days before the arrival of Pope John Paul II in El Salvador, and joining the initiative of the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG), the FMLN and Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR) today offered to observe a cease-fire on Sunday, 6 March. FDR President Guillermo Manuel Ungo and FMLN Commander Ana Guadalupe Martinez today announced in a press conference held in the Mexican capital that this coming Sunday they will not carry out any military activity, although they reserve the right of self-defense in case of the Salvadoran Army attacks them.

Ungo and Martinez stated that "the visit of the pope opens a possibility in the search for peace through dialogue. Neither the FMLN nor the FDR fear the visit of John Paul II. On the contrary, we support it in every respect because the majority of the Salvadoran people are Catholic and have waited for the arrival of the pope for a long time," the guerrilla commander explained.

Guillermo Ungo said that various sectors of the Salvadoran ultraright are opposed to the visit of John Paul II because they fear the actions of military and paramilitary groups.

However, the spokesmen for the Salvadoran clandestine opposition voiced their hope that the armed forces would state that the armed forces will also respect the proposed cease-fire.

Last week, also in Mexico, the URNG announced in a communique that it will not stage any military operations on 7 March, the date on which Pope John Paul II will be visiting that country.

In this manner, except for the Somozist groups active on the Honduran-Nicaraguan border, all the important guerrilla movements in Central America have announced they will respect the visit of the head of the Catholic Church.

The last time the Salvadoran guerrillas publicly announced a cease-fire was on the occasion of the first anniversary of the killing of Msgr Oscar Arnulfo Romero, archbishop of San Salvador. Since then, as of the general offensive launched on 10 January 1981, the actions of the guerrilla movements seeking to overthrow the Government of El Salvador have been resistent.

Ungo and Martinez evaded answering questions about possible new peace initiatives for Central America during the press conference held today in the Mexican capital.

Garcia Response

PA011307 Buenos Aires LATIN in Spanish 0807 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 1 Mar (LATIN-REUTER) -- The top Salvadoran military leader, in response to the leftwing guerrillas' proposed cease-fire during the visit of Pope John Paul II to El Salvador on 6 March, has said that the armed forces will not stage an offensive during the pope's visit.

Defense Minister Jose Guillermo Garcia told REUTERS last night that the government forces would only respond to a guerrilla attack. If the guerrillas abstain from initiating action, the army will not have any reason to attack them, he added.

"How I wish that the cease-fire, as the subversives have labeled it, could be not only for the holy pope's visit, but forever," General Garcia added. Guerrilla representatives had declared that they would observe a 1-day truce on 6 March in their actions against the Salvadoran Government, which is supported by the United States. The announcement was made in Mexico by the FMLN and its political wing, the Revolutionary Democratic Front (FDR).

Radio Venceremos

PA282300 (Clandestine) Radio Venceremos in Spanish to El Salvador 0230 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] Attention please: This is a call urging all members of the United Popular Action Front, the Peoples Liberation Movement, the Nationalist Democratic Union, the Peoples Revolutionary Bloc and the 28 February Peoples Leagues to give Pope John Paul II a massive welcome during the great meeting for justice.

CHURCH COMMUNIQUE ON POPE'S VISIT TO CATHEDRAL

PA010340 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] A few minutes ago, we received a communique from the Salvadoran Catholic Church Social Communications Secretariat. The communique deals with reactions to the news of the pope's private visit to the cathedral in this capital and with selfish sectors' misinterpretations of the pope's visit. The communique says:

1. In their homiles, statements and through the news media, the pastors of this archdiocesis have always noted the strictly pastoral nature of this historic and providential visit.

2. The standards and motives that have been given to the people so that the visit may yield the results we expect are in absolute spiritual line with the catechesis on the pope and the church as well as with recommendations [words indistinct] constant invitiations for reconciliation with God and men.

3. Therefore, the Salvadoran Episcopate conveys and complies with the pope's wishes as set forth in the pastoral letter to the people published on occasion of such great event.

4. It is common for the pope to visit the Catholic Church of the diocesis he visits, because it is the main church and head of the other churches of the diocesis whence the bishops carry on their mission as teachers of the faith.

5. This visit should be interpreted as a beautiful testimony of faith in the adorable ministry of Jesus' real presence in the Holy Sacrament which the pope is making the main objective of his visit.

6. It is traditional to bury the bishops in the cathedral in which they carried out their pastoral mission. That is why Msgr Oscar Romero is buried in our cathedral.

7. We should not be surprised that after celebrating the Holy Sacrament, the pope will pray at the grave of the last archbishop in an act of pure Christianity.

8. Furthermore, no one has the right to manipulate this visit to the metropolitan cathedral and no Catholic who is sure of his faith, should feel disturbed by this visit.

[Issued] San Salvador, 24 February 1983 [Signed) Social Communications Secretariat of the Archbishopric

ARMED FORCES RESTORE CALM TO SUCHITOTO

PA282305 San Salvador Radio Cadena YSKL in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] As calm is restored in Suchitoto, the armed forces have initiated another military operation with artillery fire and air force support against guerrilla redoubts near Suchitoto.

While the armed forces continues patrolling Suchitoto, teachers, parents and students are making plans to resume classes on Monday. The same sources reported that traffic between Suchitoto and San Martin has been normal for the fourth consecutive day.

Official reports received at this station this afternoon indicate that the armed forces are concentrating their efforts on patrolling Suchitoto and nearby villages, especially those located on the slopes of the Guazapa volcano.

LABOR LEADERS ACCUSE ARMY UNITS IN KILLINGS

PA281740 Paris AFP in Spanish 1945 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Excerpt] San Salvador, 28 Feb (AFP) -- Eighteen peasants of a farming cooperative in eastern San Salvador were massacred this past weekend, presumably by Army units, labor leaders said today. The peasants of Las Hojas cooperative in Cuyuapa, 65 km east of San Salvador, including old people and two children, were taken from their homes last Friday night, and their bullet-riddled bodies were found the following morning.

Col Elmer Araujo, chief of Military Detachment No. 6 of Sonsonate, has not replied thus far to a local peasant's charge that Army troops had perpetrated the killings. AFP called the Sonsonate garrison on the telephone and learned that Colonel Araujo and the second in command of the garrison were not there.

The two human rights commissions that operate in El Salvador -- the one created by the government 3 months ago and an independent one that has been operating for 6 years and that practically went underground 2 years ago -- announced today that investigations will be made of this new peasant massacre.

Cristobal Aleman, representative of the Salvadoran Communal Union (UCS) to the government human rights commission, said today that he had gone to the site of the crime, but that "nobody wanted to serve as witness for fear of suffering the same fate as those massacred."

Meanwhile, spokesmen for the other commission indicated that Army troops had reportedly committed the killing, and announced that they will turn the case over to the legal assistance office of the Archbishopric of San Salvador. A spokesman for the commission said that the Cuyuapa killing shows that human rights continue to be violated in El Salvador, and contradicts the U.S. Government's certification.

Also, a prominent Christian Democrat referred to the massacre in Las Hojas cooperative, stating that "it is the same as always. They are unjustly accused of being subversives and are later killed."

A political leader who chose to remain anonymous announced that his party will "in any event" take the case to Defense Minister Jose Guillermo Garcia, demanding that the facts be clarified. The Christian Democratic Party [PDC], which shared the government with the armed forces between January 1980 and March 1982, is the principal defender of the agrarian reform process in El Salvador, of which the peasant cooperatives are participants.

The Cuyuara farming cooperative is administered by the Salvadoran National Indigenous Association (Asociacion Nacional de Indigenas Salvadorenos -- ANIS), whose leader, Adrian Espino, said that apparently some family squabbles were involved in last Friday's killing. Espino's allegation, according to other sources, might indicate that the victims in fact were denounced to the security troops as being extremists.

Havana Reports Accusation

PA010155 Havana International Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] According to dispatches from San Salvador, members of the Salvadoran Government's Armed Forces massacred 18 peasants of a farming cooperative in the Cuyuapa region, Sonsonate Department. The massacre occurred over the weekend. Reports indicate that the peasants, including two elderly people and two children, were taken from their homes on Friday. Their bullet-riddled bodies were found on the Las Hojas cooperative in the Salvadoran region of Cuyuapa the following day.

GUATEMALA

RIOS MONTT PRAISES UPCOMING PAPAL VISIT

PA281730 Guatemala City Domestic Service in Spanish 0300 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Guatemalan President Efrain Rios Montt's weekly address to the nation; date and place not given -- live or recorded]

[Excerpt] Next Sunday is a very special day, because at my invitation Pope John Paul II, the Catholic Church's pontiff, will be visiting us. For the first time, next Sunday, the leader of millions of Catholic people all over the world will visit this country, thus making history.

For Guatemala, the pope's visit is a great honor. For us Guatemalans, it is a new responsibility, since we must show him our respect and must treat him in accordance with his high position.

At this specific point in our history, I think that the Catholic pontiff's visit is no coincidence. I have seriously thought about the importance of this development. God our Lord is providing our beloved Guatemala with extraordinary experiences, which we must be able to receive in all their magnitude and with all wisdom and gratitude. One of these experessions, the biggest experience of them all, is John Paul II's visit. His visit to Guatemala is so important that hundreds of thousands of citizens will take to the streets to participate in the activities planned for him.

We must show a positive attitude marked by order and respect, so that such large crowds can move about the city.

We must particularly obey the traffic regulations and the rules of courtesy toward other citizens in order to make room efficiently and courteously for the large number of vehicles and persons who will be visiting the city. In doing this we will make this event particularly beneficial, permitting it, as it is watched by all nations, to show both our quality and hospitality to the world.

For your convenience, all the social communications media will transmit and narrate the details of the events held. This will prevent unnecessary crowding.

May God bless the pope; may God our Lord bless the Catholic people; may god bless Guatemala, our homeland, which is also you. Thank you.

NICARAGUA

PAPER CRITICIZES CONGRESSMAN LONG'S STATEMENTS

PA271901 Managua EL NUEVO DIARIO in Spanish 19 Feb 83 p 12

[Text] U.S. Congressman Clarence D. Long yesterday made statements that coincide with the Reagan administration's aggressive policies toward Nicaragua. It was obvious that the visitor, who had not been in the country for more than 9 hours, could not get a clear understanding of Nicaragua's reality in that amount of time. Long hurled a series of slanderous accusations against Nicaragua and compared the murderous Guatemalan regime with the democratic policies of the revolution.

Long said that the U.S. delegation, which included Julian C. Dixon and Matthew McHugh of the U.S. Foreign Appropriations Committee [as published], were visiting Nicaragua while on a Central American tour aimed at assessing the refugee situation, the handling of human rights in the area and the presence of "foreign advisers" here. He said the delegation visited Guatemala and confirmed that human rights are violated in the Indian communities and in the southern part of Mexico [as published].

When newsmen asked Congressman Long if he had any proof of what he said is happening in Nicaragua, he responded that he based his statements on testimony obtained at the Miskito camps in Honduras. Long pointed out, however, that because of a lack of time he could not visit the Miskito communities that have been moved by the revolution in order to protect them from criminal counterrevolutionary actions.

Finally, in an open threat, Long said that Nicaragua has to face these great problems and solve them in order to prevent a full-fledged war. The U.S. congressmen arrived in Nicaragua yesterday at 0900. They met with Revolutionary Commander Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Government Junta, and with Deputy Foreign Minister Nora Astorga. They left at approximately 1800.

HAVANA CITES AREA LEFTISTS ON POPE'S VISIT

PA281720 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] The Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity [URNG] has said in a statement that Pope John Paul II will come to Central America at a time when a deep political and social crisis has led to a struggle of the people against their oppressors. The Guatemalan organization states that the visit is very important, because it will permit the head of the Catholic Church to confirm for himself the injustice, persecution and genocide, as well as the nature and content of the struggle of the Guatemalan people and their Central American brothers. We believe, the document states, that the Guatemalan people, who have risen up in arms, have every right to expect the pope to refrain from putting them on the same footing, because of the armed struggle they are forced to wage, with the powerful oppressors who practice indiscriminate violence against defenseless people.

The Popular Vanguard Party of Costa Rica said, for its part, that the pope's upcoming tour could contribute to the solution of some of the serious problems with which Central America is afflicted; and Daniel Ortega, coordinator of the Nicaraguan Government Junta, said that the visit will strengthen the international movement for peace for all countries in the region.

MALMIERCA ARRIVES IN NEW DELHI FOR SUMMIT 27 FEB

FL281708 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1424 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] New Delhi -- Cuban Foreign Minister Isidoro Malmierca arrived in the Indian capital yesterday to attend the seventh nonaligned countries summit. Malmierca was received by Indian Foreign Minister Narasimha Rao, deputy chief of the Indian delegation at the nonaligned conference of chiefs of state and government.

It was reported in New Delhi that 70 chiefs of state or government of nonaligned countries will participate in the seventh summit which is to begin in New Delhi on 7 March. According to Indian Foreign Ministry sources, 55 delegations of nonaligned nations will be headed by presidents and 15 by prime ministers. The preparatory activities for this summit will begin tomorrow with a meeting of experts which will be followed by a meeting of foreign ministers on 3 and 4 March.

RAUL CASTRO TOURS PINAR DEL RIO PROVINCE

FL281525 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1145 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] Army General Raul Castro, second secretary of the party Central Committee and FAR minister, toured Pinar del Rio province from Wednesday to Saturday. This tour included the Pinar del Rio, Consolacion del Sur, San Cristobal and Los Palacios municipalities. In his tour, Castro witnessed the intense activity of Pinar del Rio inhabitants in the face of the difficulties caused by the bad weather. He also received a detailed report on the status of partisan work particularly on experiences resulting from the implementation of a regulation applied at the municipal level regarding the post of instructor. He also witnessed the people's vigorous reaction in the face of the new tasks suggested for the province, the plans for saving and the responses to the resolutions of the sixth party plenum.

A united people like ours, with a strong party and a leader like Fidel, is what make us powerful, Raul said in a meeting with party members of the 17 May Cooperative which operates in the heart of (Los Organos) mountain range.

In his visit to the 30 November sugar mill, he witnessed the fighting spirt of the workers who have expressed their determination to complete the sugar cane harvest even if they have to carry the cane by hand, which they are doing in part. Castro's tour also included a visit to Friedrich Engels vocational school, the Gerardo Medina fishing industrial center in La Coloma, the 5 September agricultural slaughter house, a spare parts factory and an electronic center. He was accompanied by Jose Ramon Machado Ventura, member of the Politburo; Jaime Crombet, provincial party first secretary province; and Orlando Lugo, president of the provincial assembly, both of them members of the party Central Committee.

HART IN ROME TO ATTEND ITALIAN CP CONGRESS

FL281706 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1529 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] Rome -- Armando Hart Davalos, member of the Politburo of the Communist Party of Cuba [PCC] and culture minister, arrived in the Italian capital to participate in the 16th congress of the Italian Communist Party. Hart Davalos heads a delegation made up of Jorge Enrique Mendoza, member of PCC Politburo and director of its official organ, GRANMA, and Javier Ardizones, section chief in the party's General Department of International Relations.

JORGE LEZCANO LEADS DELEGATION TO HUNGARY

FL282335 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 2230 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] Budapest -- Jorge Lezcano, vice president of Cuba's National Assembly of the People's Government, has arrived in Budapest to attend the annual consulation meeting of socialist parliaments. Lezcano, who heads the Cuban parliamentary group, was welcomed at the airport by officials of Hungary's National Assembly and the charge d'affaires of the Cuban Embassy in Budapest, Jorge Rodriguez Grillo. The 2-day meeting will open sessions 1 March.

RADIO ON PRESIDENT REAGAN'S 'UNPOPULARITY'

FL281950 Havana Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 26 Feb 83

["Revolutionary Armed Forces and Interior Ministry Combatants Political Information" program commentary]

[Text] Ronald Reagan has turned out to be the most unpopular U.S. President in recent years. The gallop polls have shown that the current President is more unpopular than his predecessors. Kennedy attained 76 percent in the popularity polls; Nixon had 52 percent; Ford had 45 percent; but Reagan has only achieved a more 38 percent in popularity.

The polls have shown that over 50 percent of U.S. citizens disapprove of the current administration. Some 49 percent of U.S. citizens believe that the President ought to cut the military budget and increases taxes to limit the budget deficit. A superficial analysis of the current situation being experienced by the country suffices to explain the reasons for Reagan's unpopularity. Influencial economic and political circles which had previously approved Reagan's decisions now criticize him. These sectors, affected by the President's irrational economic policies, believe he has lost authority and is maintaining a closed mind. The main criticisms coming from highly-regarded circles stem from the existence of a shaky economy and a badly planned military build up. An immense budget deficit, a worsening recession and an acute economic crisis support this argument. In the past year, business investments declined by 4.6 percent, the stock market fell to levels comparable to 1929 and continued depression is expected. Some 17,500 industrial and business firms have declared themselves insolvent and over 30 banks are bankrupt.

But it is not the wealthy who voice criticism of the U.S. President's performance the loudest. Reagan's economic failure has resulted in plant closings, a reduced work week and temporary and permanent layoffs. Today, 15 million people are out of work, the federal budget deficit exceeds $150 billion and the number of people at the poverty level has increased. News dispatches indicate that giant urban centers such as New York have the greatest number of vagrants ever recorded since the 1930's. Each day, they talk of more hunger-stricken people who line up to beg for a little hot food to eat.

The high rate of unemployment has resulted in an increase in the rate of suicides and crimes and a lower rate of students in universities. Among racial minorities the problem is more acute, and it is reported that one out of every three Blacks lives below the official poverty level. Unemployment affects more than 20 percent of the Black population and their rate of unemployment is 1/3 higher than that of Whites. Added to this is the fact that Reagan has made multiple cuts to social programs while at the same time increasing military spending.

The last round of cuts in social programs resulted in over 2 million children passing into the misery level of living. Reagan held back funds amounting to $43 billion which were destined to pay medical services for needy mothers with young children and for food coupons. He also proposed to limit the funds destined for infant nutrition programs, protection of children and specialized training.

Now the president is demanding a new budget cut in funds destined for the most needy sector amounting to $3.5 billion. However, the resident of the White House managed to get approval for a record-breaking military budget for 1984 amounting to $280.5 billion. This budget would cover the costs of the Army, Navy and Air Force and ensure the growth in strategic and intervention military units. Likewise, it would ensure the production of nuclear warheads, chemical and bacteriological weapons and the militarization of outer space. Among Reagan's objectives is the plan to increase military spending to $1.7 trillion over the next 5 years.

Many North Americans are very worried because they believe Reagan wants to get them into a new war. Therefore, it is not very surprising that a large part of the U.S. population may show a lack of interest, disappointment and contempt for the performance of the current resident of the White House.

COMMENTARY ON SURINAME REVOLUTION ANNIVERSARY

PA281403 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 27 Feb 83

["Our America" commentary]

[Text] On Friday the people of Suriname joyously celebrated the third anniversary of their revolution. They recalled the events of 25 February 1980, when a group of young officers and soldiers led by Colonel Daysi Bouterse rebelled against the corrupt and treacherous regime of Prime Minister Henck Arron, a pawn of the national bourgeoisie and monopolistic capital. This event became a milestone of great importance in the history of Suriname. Its political independence from the Netherlands had been achieved 5 years prior to this, on 25 November 1975, after almost 300 years of looting and colonial exploitation.

The triumph of the revolution in Suriname affected the economic interests of the Netherlands and of the mostly U.S. transnational enterprises that operated in the area.

The revolutionary process begun by Bouterse and his followers in February 1980 has gradually placed the country's natural wealth in the hands of the people. The Suriname revolution continues to carry out a nationalization program, especially in the mining industry area, where the main product, bauxite, is controlled by (Suralco), an affiliate of Aluminum of America, a U.S. company. Other monopolies control the lumber and manufacturing industries.

The measures put into effect by the revolution have exacerbated the hatred of the internal and foreign enemies. The Netherlands and the United States have continued to encourage Suriname counterrevolutionary groups, which in the past 3 years alone have attempted four coups d'etat that have been quickly discovered by the revolutionary power.

The destabilization policy put into effect against Suriname by the governments of Washington and The Hague, who have unilaterally interrupted their aid to that South American country, includes political blackmail, sabotage, military aggressions, diplomatic pressures, and a ferocious publicity campaign that presents Suriname as a country dominated by a group of bloodthirsty terrorists.

In like manner, and with the objective of stopping the economic development of the nation through a lack of manpower and qualified personnel, the Netherlands is encouraging a mass exodus of Suriname families to Europe. It is believed that currently in the Netherlands and other European countries there are some 200,000 Suriname citizens. But despite the counterrevolutionary attempts to destabilize the government, the revolution in Suriname continues to advance, and it is carrying out gradual and irreversible structural transformations in the socioeconomic, educational and political fields.

During a report to the people on the 3 years since the revolution, Suriname leader Col Daysi Bouterse said that during these 3 years more houses, roads and infrastructure works have been built than during the 5 years prior to 1980. He also said that social services, the water supply, and electricity have been greatly improved.

In recalling the February 1980 revolution, Bouterse said that after Arron's regime was overthrown the young revolutionaries had three paths from which to choose: implant a military dictatorship, replace the former government without carrying out changes, or carry out great and radical socio-economic changes. As has been demonstrated, Bouterse said, the young officers chose the third alternative, and today they dedicate all their energy to modifying the old domination structures and working with the people on economic development and the defense of the fatherland.

RAINS AFFECT CANE HARVEST THROUGHOUT COUNTRY

FL281650 Havana Domestic Television Service in Spanish 1424 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] According to a report issued by the control center of the Ministry of the Sugar Industry, the rains have greatly affected the progress of the sugarcane harvest throughout the country. This means that 39 percent of yesterday's potential harvest was realized and that the national completion rate now stands at 85 percent. Pinar del Rio province did not report any activity and the rest of the country's sugarcane territories did not even reach 70 percent of the potential harvest for yesterday. The country's sugar workers are making enormous efforts to counteract the effects of the rains that began early this year and that have increased in the past few days. Slight disruptions were reported in the sugar industry in Camaguey and operational interruptions in Santiago de Cuba. The present 10-day period has had negative factors: But the workers' efforts are increasing.

FL251355 Santo Domingo Radio HIZ in Spanish 1000 GMT 25 Feb 83

[Text] Reliable sources have told HIZ News [HIZ Informativa] that the republic's president intends to reshuffle his cabinet in the area of general and midlevel posts. They said that Mr (Jose Ovalle) would be appointed to the Administrative Secretariat of the Presidency, replacing Rafael Flores de Estrella who would, in turn, go to the Secretariat of Tourism.

Rafael Subervi Bonilla, [currently secretary of state for tourism], will not be assigned another post according to the sources. (Donti Rutinel Dominguez) may be assigned to head the National Transportation Office [Onatrate] replacing (Virgilio Bonilla). The sources reported that Mr (Evelio Hernandez) would be dismissed as public works' director of equipment and transports and that other changes are expected there.

The sources said that President Salvador Jorge Blanco has already selected the new members of his administration. The president is expected to go before the congress on National Independence Day to render a report on his 6-month-old administration's achievements.

There is general uneasiness among the bureaucrats throughout all departments of the government as they wait for the 27th of this month. What is certain is that there are going to be changes at all departmental levels of the government of national unity.

JORGE BLANCO ADDRESSES NATIONAL CONGRESS

PA281916 Paris AFP in Spanish 0108 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] Santo Domingo, 27 Feb (AFP) -- Dominican democracy is in good health, and the country is on its way toward gradually overcoming the economic crisis that has affected it as a result of the world situation, Dominican President Salvador Jorge Blanco stated today in his constitutional address to the National Congress.

The president, who took office on 16 August 1982, gave a report on the first 6 months of his government during National Congress sessions held by constitutional mandate to hear the presidential report, on the occasion of the 139th anniversary of independence.

The sessions, which opened with a minute of silence in memory of the late Vice President Manuel Fernandez Marmol, were attended by all the state ministers and government officials of the executive branch, diplomatic corps members accredited to the country, members of the judicial branch and military and church authorities.

Regarding the economic situation, Jorge Blanco announced that the gross internal product increased this year by 2.6 percent, compared to an increase of 1.5 percent last year. This is reason for being "cautiously optimistic" about the national economic trend for the current period.

At the same time, he anticipated that the value of Dominican exports will increase 3 percent this year compared to the previous year, while a 10 percent drop in the value of exports [as received] is also expected. As a result of these changes, the administration estimates there will be a "slight surplus" in the country's foreign exchange balance this year, compared to a deficit of $113 million last year.

The president attributed the improvement on the national economic situation to the price increase of some export products, such as gold and minerals, and the drop in interest rates and oil prices.

He also attributed it to the severe austerity measures, morality, and reduced public spending -- which showed a 9 percent reduction compared to last year -- imposed by the government, while public investment generated between $180 and $280 billion, which is equivalent to a 60 percent increase.

Meanwhile, the Central Bank (non-organizational) credit issue planned for 1983 totals $190 million, 37 percent less than in 1982, "with a resulting strengthening of our currency," the president noted.

On monetary issues, the chief of state noted as one of the greatest achievements the dollar quotation on the parallel market, which has remained exactly the same up to now.

Another significant achievement was the inflation rate of 7.4 percent in 1982, which the chief of state termed "the lowest in Latin America" during that period.

Within this optimistic outlook, he stressed the announcement that through 45 hydroelectric projects currently in various phases of construction, by the end of the decade the country will become self-sufficient in energy, which is currently generated with imported oil.

Jorge Blanco announced that his government has managed to "set its house in order" after a year in which export revenues dropped by 25 percent, fiscal revenue by 22 percent and public investment by 35 percent, and state businesses registered losses of several billions of dollars.

The economic slump, added to last year's election process and President Antonio Guzman's suicide in the middle of his term, were "a flammable mixture" that tested the national will to live in peace and democracy, the president stated. The president stressed that Dominican international relations were strengthened during his term, especially toward the Caribbean region.

Also regarding international relations, he said that an official delegation had been sent -- the first of its kind to participate in an event of this kind -- to the seventh summit of chiefs of state of the Nonaligned Movement, which will meet beginning 1 March in New Delhi.

The president noted that "his greatest satisfaction" as chief of state was the recognition "at the national and international levels" of the existence in the Dominican Republic of human rights, democratic liberties, the independence of the state branches and the democratic and institutional spirit of the armed forces.

He promised to continue to maintain a "simple, open and popular" style of government, which he described as an "open and participative presidentialism" as opposed to the "political boss" style which, according to him, characterized his predecessors.

"The current government is not of one person, but of all the Dominican people," he stressed, noting that during his 6 and 1/2 months in power he has met "with more than 10,000 citizens of all levels."

The president's lengthy speech, which lasted more than an hour, was interrupted 28 times by applause from the assembly. The lengthiest of these bursts of applause, followed by a standing ovation, was when Jorge Blanco mentioned that he shares the political and economic criteria of Jose Francisco Pena Gomez, mayor of the capital and secretary general of the ruling party.

ACP URGES EEC TO BACK SUGAR, TOURISM PACTS

FL251610 Bridgetown CANA in English 1356 GMT 25 Feb 83

[Excerpts] Kingston, Jamaica, Feb 25, CANA -- Caribbean countries in the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Bloc have called on the European Economic Community (EEC) to implement with dispatch any unused agreements in the Lome Convention relating to tourism and sugar.

Hard-up for foreign exchange and faced with rising unemployment at home, countries represented at the joint committee meeting of the ACP/EEC consultative assembly here Wednesday night asked the Europeans to recognise that those are "two of the gravest threats to economic development and social stability in the Caribbean region."

The resolution asked the Europeans to acknowledge the crucial role played by the sugar industry and tourism in the region in maintaining employment and contributing to foreign exchange earnings.

The resolution said that it was "of the most vital importance that all the resolutions on sugar adopted by the consultative assembly be pursued and implemented as a matter urgency."

The resolution was expected to be debated and voted on last night.

In other areas of the resolution the Caribbean nations called for better conditions for their students in Europe [and] asked that the region be recognised as a zone of peace.

It also affirmed the "inadmissability of the use of economic coercion to influence or subvert the process of economic development of the Caribbean states."

The Caribbean will also be backing an ACP resolution seeking increased quotas for ACP cane sugar producing nations and insisting "that there should be free, effective and genuine negotiation of the ACP guaranteed price for the forthcoming delivery period and subsequent years."

This resolution reflects ACP fears that the set global quota for sugar to the EEC markets might effectively be reduced as more ACP states begin to export sugar under the Lome Convention. They are worried that the Europeans could feel attracted by the idea of asking individual countries to accept a smaller quota.

The ACP motion "insists that the community should adopt a more appropriate and more realistic sugar regime the consequential effects of which would enhance the ACP guaranteed price prospects under the sugar protocol and thus reinforce the economic viability of ACP sugar."

Spurred by mountains of heavily subsidised European beet sugar the mainly cane sugar producing nations stressed that with "more realistic world sugar prices which could be attained if community beet sugar surpluses are not permitted to undermine the world market, ACP cane sugar could continue to provide a firm and economically viable basis for the development and strengthening of the ACP Sugar states."

It exhorts the community and the ACP states at the next meeting of the United Nations Trade and Development Conference (UNCTAD) to "alert the international community to the increasingly alarming situation from the development of substitute sweeteners and to the need for appropriate measures to be taken in order to safeguard the interest of traditional sugar producers."

Joint Committee Meeting Ends

FL252111 Bridgetown CANA in English 2204 GMT 25 Feb 83

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Feb 25, CANA -- Leaders of the African, Caribbean and Pacific countries (ACP) and the European Economic Community (EEC) ended their joint committee meeting of the consultative assembly here last night affirming their "unshakable solidarity" and saying that they had successfully laid the basis for coming negotiations on a new trade and aid pact between the two blocs.

The final session of the four-day meeting ended late with voting on 20 resolutions which are to form the basis of proposals to be carried forward to the negotiation of a successor convention to their second Lome agreement. The talks start later this year.

Despite the heated debate which marked the daily sessions ACP co-president Francis Butagyira of Uganda told journalists at the end of the meeting "our solidarity is unshakable."

The two sides had emerged from the meeting "stronger than before," he said.

Mr. Butagyira said that it was the first of the joint committee meetings to be entirely devoted to laying the ground work for negotiations on ACP/EEC cooperation, adding that one of the highlights was a call on the Europeans to increase sugar quotas commensurate with the increasing number of ACP countries entering sugar exportation.

ACP countries want more consideration given to production costs when sugar prices paid by Europe for supplies from the ACP are being set and they asked the Europeans to consider restoring full quota rights when countries are in a position to meet them following earlier failure to do so.

But Mr. Butagyira said the ACP states now wanted to see the fund used to compensate for losses in export earnings (Stabex) widened to benefit tourism and a higher number of products such as manufactured goods. The Europeans have been resisting this position saying that Stabex was broke because its funds had been used up in the first years of the present Lome Convention.

But the ACP states describe the funds allocated as being "woefully inadequate."

A high point of the meeting here, Butagyira said, was the attention given to peculiar problems of the Caribbean group within the ACP. A resolution was adopted urging the European Community to give high priority to the problems which they were experiencing with sugar, rum and bananas.

The Caribbean ACP states said they were now faced with growing unemployment and a serious lack of foreign exchange, "two of the gravest threats to economic development and social stability in the Caribbean region."

They asked the Europeans to acknowledge the crucial role played by the sugar industry and tourism in the region in maintaining employment and contributing to foreign exchange.

It was important, the Caribbean states said, that the predominantly island developing states be granted unrestricted access of non-traditional as well as traditional exports, particularly bananas to the EEC markets and that the rules of origin in respect of fisheries be reformed.

Caribbean problems with sugar are similar to those of other ACP producers, relating to quotas and pricing affected by competition from subsidised European beet sugar.

The region, an important rum producing area, wants this commodity to be treated as an industrial product. But the EEC parliamentarians blocked its acceptance.

Other broad proposals which will be taken into the talks beginning in September include emphasis on industrial cooperation as the main plank of ACP/EEC relations.

The ACP states that it was pointless continuing the practice of only supplying the EEC markets with raw materials for their industries and not moving towards industrialisation themselves.

The delegates felt that cultural cooperation should be a principle feature of cooperation between the ACP and EEC, with emphasis on the improvement in the conditions of ACP students and migrant workers in the European Community.

The meeting also called for undefined pressure on South Africa for its invasion of Lesotho, and the European Community parliamentarians agreed to support economic and humanitarian aid to African frontline states which bear the brunt of South Africa's actions.

Mr Butagyira said an idea which was mooted that some aspects of the Lome Convention be put on a permanent footing with only a few elements left for regulat negotiations was not decided on by the joint committee. "It remains an idea," he said.

EEC co-chairman Giovanni Bersani described the meeting as one of the most successful despite the complexities of the issues raised.

EEC/ACP Meeting Resolution

FL252344 Bridgetown CANA in English 2306 GMT 25 Feb 83

[Text] Kingston, Jamaica, Feb 25, CANA -- Parliamentarians for the African Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries and the European Economic Community (EEC) have supported a resolution against the use of economic coercion influence or subvert economic development in Caribbean.

The resolution also called for the region to be declared a zone of peace and contained other aspects of problems which the Caribbean group in the ACP listed for the attention of a meeting of the joint committee of the ACP-EEC consultative assembly which ended here last night.

In the motion backed by the African and Pacific blocs of the ACP, the Caribbean urged the Europeans to affirm "the inadmissibility of the use of economic coercion to influence or subvert the process of economic development of the Caribbean states, and recognise the Caribbean as a zone of peace."

Jamaica supported the resolution, but delegation leader, Arthur Williams, side stepped questions of the implications of the resolution for the United States Caribbean Basin Initiative (CBI) which excludes leftist Grenada, a Caribbean state which is a member of the ACP. The Jamaica delegation was the only Caribbean representative at a news conference at the end of the meeting.

Williams, who is deputy speaker of the Jamaica House of Representatives, would only say that Jamaica had supported the resolution with the rest of the Caribbean ACP states. All aspects of the resolution were carried with the exception of a move by the Caribbean nations to get rum treated as an industrial product.

Francis Victor Sable of Martinique made an unsuccessful bid to get the clause amended to provide a legal definition of rum as a product from molasses manufactured in a cane sugar producting region. Rum is used largely in Europe as blend for alcoholic spirits which are locally produced.

But the Europeans do not see it as an industrial product and therefore it does not attract the same benefits of entry into the EEC market. The Europeans voted against the clause (?but) accepted the other paragraphs.

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA

PRIME MINISTER VIEWS REGIONAL DEFENSE, SECURITY

FL281843 Bridgetown CANA in English 2100 GMT 26 Feb 83

[By Denis Seon]

[Text] St Johns, Antigua, Feb 26, CANA -- Veteran Prime Minister Vere Bird of Antigua and Barbuda says a regional defence and security system now being set up in the eastern Caribbean is insurance against the violent overthrow of democratically elected governments. Addressing the closing of a weeklong communications workshop here, Mr Bird said he hoped never to see in the Caribbean a recurrence of the coup that ousted the Eric Gairy regime in Grenada in 1979.

Said Mr Bird: "In this region we cannot afford to have another Cuba or another Grenada. If this was ever to happen our people will never again be able to live in peace. But if you don't like the right way it....by the gun. Let me tell you something...the whole idea behind the defence force is that if you get through today in your own island, don't forget there will be forces in all the other islands and you will have to answer to them." [as received]

Antigua-Barbuda, Barbados, St Lucia, Dominica and St Vincent last year signed an agreement committing them to assisting each other on request in cases of threats to national security, natural or other disasters, the prevention of smuggling, search and rescue, immigration control, protection of offshore installations and in maritime policing duties. Barbados will be the headquarters for the scheme, whose financing and staffing arrangements were discussed by the five governments in St Lucia last weekend.

Mr Bird warned anyone who might be thinking of trying to overthrow the government that with the security force in place they will not find it easy.

The prime minister said that his government believed in the democratic process and for this reason had participated in the pact. "The setting up of this regional defence force is to ensure that people will be able to live in peace," he declared.

BARBADOS

FOREIGN MINISTER HEADS DELEGATION TO NONALIGNED

FL261640 Bridgetown CANA in English 1504 GMT 26 Feb 83

[Excerpt] Bridgetown, Barbados, Feb 26, CANA -- Minister of Foreign Affairs Louis R. Tull will lead Barbados' delegation to the 7th summit conference of the Non-aligned Movement in New Delhi, India, March 7-11, it was officially announced here. The minister will be accompanied by two officials.

BERMUDA

FINANCE MINISTER PRESENTS $165 MILLION BUDGET

FL261245 Bridgetown CANA in English 1237 GMT 26 Feb 83

[Text] Hamilton, Bermuda, Feb 26, CANA-Reuter -- Finance Minister David Gibbons yesterday presented a balanced 165 million dollar budget that will mean more expensive cigarettes, alcohol and gasoline but no other major tax increases for Bermuda.

Warning that the British colony's affluence could not be maintained if prices in the vital tourism industry continued to rise, he urged that pay hikes be linked to inflation, currently at an annual rate of seven per cent.

Mr Gibbons also warned that new tax laws in the United States could hit Bermuda's international business industry. More than 5,000 foreign companies, mainly in insurance and oil, are registered because there is no income tax or captial gains tax here. But new U.S. laws mean many such companies are now subject to American taxes.

Import duty increases will put an extra five cents on a pack of cigarettes, one dollar on a litre of liquor and three cents on a litre of gasoline.

The departure tax for cruise ship visitors was increased from 15 dollars to 20 dollars and the five dollar airport departure tax was unchanged.

Mr Gibbons said that although Bermuda's inflation rate had not gone as high as in most Western countries, it had also failed to drop as quickly as inflation had elsewhere.

Inflation had been at around seven per cent for a year, and was not caused by imported goods but by the cost of local services, he noted.

"If we continue in this vein, there is no guarantee that tourists and international companies will flood back to the island in the wake of the recovery of the U.S. economy," he said.

"A sensible attitude to wage and salary demands and the setting of margins will ensure that we lose no more of our international competitiveness."

The vast majority of the 545,000 tourists who visited Bermuda in 1982 were from the United States.

DOMINICA

CONTROVERSIAL USAID AGREEMENT TO BE DISCUSSED

FL281905 Bridgetown CANA in English 2050 GMT 27 Feb 83

[Text] Roseau, Dominica, Feb 27, CANA -- Dominica's banana growers hold a crucial meeting here tomorrow, focusing on plans to improve the vital industry -- the islands major source of foreign exchange. Main talking point will be a controversial agreement the Dominica Government and the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) have signed.

Several opposition politicians and the Dominica Farmer's Union (DFU), with a membership of about 2,500, have criticised the 4.7 million dollar (one E.C. dollar: 37 cents U.S.) AID package.

The agreement makes provision for the establishment of a private company to run the industry, now administered by the government. Opponents of the plan have said that without government backing the problem-plagued industry could collapse. The growers are expected to decide tomorrow on whether or not to accept the USAID package.

The DFU, meanwhile has said the meeting should also discuss measures to raise the level of banana exports from Dominica and the other three Windward Islands -- St Vincent, Grenada, and St. Lucia. The DFU has recommended that a trade mission from the Windward Islands visit the United Kingdom and the European Economic Community (EEC) Secretariat in Brussels, with a view to strengthening the market for bananas from the four islands.

The DFU's position is outlined in a paper which it says will be submitted to the special general meeting of banana growers here.

GRENADA

BISHOP CALLS ECONOMY GROWTH 'MODEL FOR WESTERN WORLD'

FL250043 Bridgetown CANA in English 0009 GMT 25 Feb 83

[Text] St Georges, Grenada, Feb. 24, CANA -- Grenada's model of economic development was being looked at as the possible answer to the economic problems in the Western world, Prime Minister Maurice Bishop said today as he addressed a national conference of mass organisations on the country's economy.

Bishop said Third World countries with large deposits of mineral resources were finding themselves in large economic debt as a result of their economies being tied to the Western industrialised countries.

Bishop said 85 billion dollars were lost in purchasing power by the developing countries because of a number of reasons. Among them, he said, were the low prices paid for goods from the Third World countries, high interest rates in the United States and the growing difficulty to get credits from developed countries.

Speaking about today's conference, Bishop said it was called as part of the participatory democracy being built in Grenada and was in keeping with the serious attention being paid to planning.

As he put it, Grenadians were now involved in planning their own lives.

The one-day conference was held to look at the performance of the economy during 1982 and to discuss the proposed budget and plan for 1983 and beyond.

Members of the diplomatic corps also attended the morning ceremony.

Attending the conference were some 1,000 delegates from a number of mass bodies including the National Women's Organisation, National Youth Organisation, the People's Revolutionary Armed Forces, the Productive Farmers Union and other trade unions within the country.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Finance, Planning and Trade Bernard Coard said that the event was an example of the government's commitment to the principles of accountability to the people, and participation by the people.

The minister said the conference was part and parcel of the process of building a people's democracy in Grenada. This process, he said, could only be fully realised by the consciousness of the people through political and academic education.

He noted that the conference was being held at a time when most of the advanced countries were going through a severe economic crisis and when the living conditions of the working people under capitalism were at their worst since the great depression of 1929.

HAVANA CITES OFFICIALS ON DISRUPTION PLANS

PA281716 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 18 Feb 83

[Text] Grenadian Prime Minister Maurice Bishop has said that his government will act vigorously against those who seek to carry out slander campaigns to undermine the Grenadian revolution.

Gen (Hudson Austin), a member of the Political Bureau of the New Jewel Movement added that the security forces have already identified nine local agents who are responsible for false rumors that are designed to cast doubt on the revolutionary integrity of cabinet members.

BISHOP ASSURES BUSINESSMEN OF PRG CONSIDERATION

FL010230 St Georges Domestic Service in English 2330 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] Prime Minister Maurice Bishop today told delegates at the second national conference of senior citizens and small businessmen on the economy that their recommendations and suggestions would be studied carefully by the People's Revolutionary Government [PRG]. Speaking at the conference at the dome in Grand Anse today, Brother Bishop reminded the delegates that over 70 percent of their suggestions were incorporated in the 1982 budget. The prime minister said last year's call for a cut in imported goods was carefully considered and the results could be seen in the fall in imports over the past year. He told the delegates (?their) discussions on the budget were not academic since their suggestions were being (?practically) used.

FOREIGN MINISTER PAYS VISIT TO VIETNAM

For Hanoi coverage of Foreign Minister Unison Whiteman's visit to Vietnam, beginning 24 February, including coverage of a reception hosted by SRV Foreign Minister Nguyen Co Thach and a meeting with Chairman of the Council of Ministers Pham Van Dong, see the Vietnam section of the 28 February Asia & Pacific DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

MARTINIQUE

LEFTISTS WIN SEAT MAJORITY IN ELECTIONS

FL282300 Bridgetown CANA in English 2015 GMT 28 Feb 83

[Text] Fort-de-France, Martinique, Feb 28, CANA -- More than five per cent of the votes cast in this month's regional council elections here were spoilt, election officials have reported. The leftist Departmentalist Union of Martinique won 46.12 per cent of the votes cast in the February 20 elections in this French overseas island department. There were 195,680 voters registered and of the 119,598 votes cast, 6,537 (5.78 per cent) were spoilt.

Following is a breakdown of results in the French department Caribbean island:

Departmentalist Union of Martinique, headed by Michael Renard: 52,147 votes (46.12 per cent) -- 20 seats.
Martinique Progressive Party, headed by Aime Cessaire: 31,443 votes (27.81 per cent) -- 12 seats.
Socialist Party (Martinique Socialist Federation), headed by Casmir Branglidor: 14,029 votes (12.41 per cent) -- 5 seats.
Martinique Community Party, headed by Georges Gratiant: 10,255 votes (9.07 per cent) -- 4 seats.
Groupe Revolution Socialist-Combat Ouvrier, led by Gilbert Pago and Ghislaine Joachim-Arnaud: 2,217 votes (1.96 per cent) -- no seats.
Movement for Independence of Martinique, headed by Alfred Marie-Jeanne: 2,970 votes (2.63 per cent) -- no seats.

FOREIGN MINISTRY ON VENEZUELA'S LETTER TO CASTRO

FL251905 Georgetown Guyana Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 25 Feb 83

[Text] A spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Georgetown has dismissed as a (?wildly detailed comment) on certain statements made available to Guyana by the Venezuelan foreign minister in a letter to the chairman of the Nonaligned Movement.

The statements made by Dr Zambrano in his letter were described as [words indistinct] statements that were part and parcel of the ill-conceived propaganda techniques of the Venezuelan Government. The statements were made after careful consideration of Dr Zambrano's letter, delivered early this month to the chairman of the movement. In that letter, Venezuela indicated its decision to suspend its application to become a full member of the Nonaligned Movement. The spokesman recalled that certain criteria and [word indistinct] for membership were laid down in 1961 and those remain as relevant today as at the time of formulation.

It was also recalled that a number of countries have encountered some difficulties from various sides when they sought full membership with the movement. And only a few days ago, Honduras' application for observer status was turned down by the Coordinating Bureau.

The spokesman made clear that it was Venezuela's sovereign right to suspend its application. However, he said that should the application be reactivated, Guyana's position would continue to be constructive, determined by respect for the [word indistinct] principles and qualities of the Nonaligned Movement to which this country will always remain unswervingly committed.

PARTY WARNS OF CONSEQUENCES FROM DRY SPELL

FL281901 Bridgetown CANA in English 1421 GMT 27 Feb 83

[Text] Georgetown, Guyana, Feb 27, CANA -- The Marxist opposition People's Progressive Party (PPP) has said that Guyana's water shortage in the face of a spell of dry weather, has caused an outbreak of disease and the death of some children.

"In the rural areas residents in many parts are forced to use trench water for cooking, drinking and washing," the PPP claimed in its publication, "Guyana Information Bulletin." It added: "The dangerous use of trench water is already having bad results, with the outbreak of gastroenteritis in some rural areas and rising incidence of child deaths."

The party also claimed that in the city, where it said 20 million gallons of water are used daily, "the taps go dry most of the time. Residents who cannot afford private pumps have to be content with drips from the main."

The party said that apparanely "the water system in the city has aged considerably and can collapse at any time." It added: "The water system is plagued by broken-down pumps, lack of spares, clogged-up wells, dry wells, power cuts, shortage of dieselene, shortage of starting batteries, low water pressure, broken mains, and contaminated water supply."

The PPP said it had reminded the government "of a similar situation some years ago when thirsty residents in Georgetown ran amok and uprooted the water mains, and destroyed fire hydrants," The dry spell has adversely affected Guyana's rice crop--one of the main sources of foreign exchange.

MILITARY REGIME INSTALLS NEW CABINET 28 FEB

FL282200 Bridgetown CANA in English 2140 GMT 28 Feb 83

[By Reudon Eversley]

[Excerpts] Paramaribo, Suriname, Feb. 28, CANA -- A new 12-member Cabinet, headed by Dutch-trained sociologist Errol Alibux as prime minister, was installed here today as Suriname's fourth military-appointed government since the February 25, 1980 revolution. The line-up of new ministers includes five newcomers and two members of the disciplined forces. All the others have had previous ministerial experience since the Army seized power in this former Dutch colony three years ago.

After head of state, President Fred Ramdat Misir, had administered the oath of office to the new ministers, Prime Minister Alibux said there was "a difficult but rewarding task" ahead. He expressed confidence that the government would succeed in its duties. Alibux is a former minister of housing and social affairs. In the new administration, the prime minister takes on responsibility for foreign affairs, a portfolio held in the last government by Harvey Naarendorp who was left out of the new cabinet. Alibux will also be in charge of general affairs.

Leader of the revolution, Lieutenant Colonel Daysi Bouterse, heads of foreign missions here, top civil servants and ordinary Surinamers witnessed the new ministers take their oaths of allegiance at a simple ceremony inside the imposing presidential palace in Paramaribo, now renamed the People's Palace.

Following is the list of the new ministers:

1. Prime minister, minister of foreign and general affairs -- Errol Alibux.
2. Minister of finance and planning -- Winston Caldeira.
3. Minister of education and science -- Glenn Sankatsingh.
4. Minister of public health and labour -- Lothar Boksteen.
6. Minister of people's mobilisation and culture -- Badreissein Sital.
7. Minister of public works, telecommunications and constructions -- Willy Chin Joe.
8. Minister of trade, transport, and industry -- Imro Fong Poen.
9. Minister of natural resources and energy -- Eric Tjon Kie Sim.
10. Minister of agriculture, animal husbandry and fisheries -- Frank Vreden.
11. Minister responsible for the army and police -- Wilfred Meynaard.
12. Minister of internal affairs and justice -- Frank Leeflang.

New Premier on Objectives

PA010426 Paris AFP in English 0415 GMT 1 Mar 83

[Text] The Hague, Mar 1 (AFP) -- Suriname's military regime Monday announced the formation of a new government under the direction of Errol Alibux, a 34-year-old socialogist, the Dutch news agency ANP reported here. Mr Alibux doubles as premier and foreign minister. Four Cabinet ministers were members of the government that resigned after the execution of 15 oppositionists last December 8. The Revolutionary People's Party, a pro-Cuba group, is not represented in the new cabinet.

The prime minister said his government's first task would be to break the foreign stranglehold, especially by the Netherlands, on Suriname's economy.

Mr Alibux was a member of former Prime Minister Chin A Sen's government from August 1980 to February 1982. He belongs to the Progressive Union of Workers and Farmers, which won several thousand votes in the last legislative election in 1977. Before assuming the premiership, Mr Alibux was an intimate advisor of Suriname's defense chief, Col Days Bouterse, who took power in a leftist military coup in February 1980. In his speech Monday, Mr Alibux called the colonel a "luminous model" and said that the military would remain the "spearhead of the revolution."

BOUTERSE CANCELS 25 FEB SPEECH; CABINET DISPUTE

PM011011 Amsterdam DE VOLKSKRANT in Dutch 25 Feb 83 p 1

[Unnamed "own correspondent" report: "Bouterse Cancels Public Speech"]

[Text] Amsterdam/Paramaribo -- At the last minute Army leader Daysi Bouterse cancelled the speech he was to have held today on the Einheidsplein in Paramaribo at a ceremonial meeting on the third anniversary of the revolution. The Central Information Service, which has the task of reporting the Army leadership, was told that its men should not report to the Einheidsplein but to the People's Palace.

It had been expected that Bouterse would present the new Surinamese Cabinet during his speech. According to sources in Paramaribo, Bouterse, together with Errol Alibux, who has been asked to head the Cabinet, will probably appear on television to give a date (possibly Monday) for the presentation of the new Cabinet. One of the reasons for the postponement is said to be the current conflict between Acting Foreign Minister Sankatsingh and ex-Ambassador Herrenberg. There is also said to be more disagreement about the appointments to a number of Cabinet posts.

The demonstration by schoolchildren and students on Thursday [24 February] evening, which was organized by the government, was a failure because only a few demonstrators turned up. The demonstration was intended as a protest against possible mercenary actions against the government. On the preceding evening unknown persons had circulated pamphlets in Paramaribo calling on people not to take part in an action by a government that "has murdered 15 citizens."

The International Jurists Commission in Geneva has sent a two-man delegation to Suriname to look into the functioning of the country's legal system. The two, an American who teaches international law in Groningen and a Belgian lawyer, will investigate whether suspects are given a fair trial and whether the judicial authorities are truly independent.

Reportedly Fires Netherlands Envoy

PM281031 Amsterdam DE VOLKSKRANT in Dutch 24 Feb 83 p 1

[Unnamed "own correspondent" report: "Suriname Dismisses Herrenberg"]

[Excerpts] Amsterdam/Paramaribo [no date as published] -- According to reliable sources in Paramaribo, Henk Herrenberg has been officially dismissed as Suriname's ambassador to the Netherlands. At an emergency meeting at Fort Zeelandia in the presence of charge d'affaires Spier and Herrenberg's spokesman, Marciano Jesserun, Herrenberg was strongly attacked by Army leader Bouterse.

The Paramaribo sources also report that Herrenberg no longer has any chance of a ministerial post in the new Surinamese Cabinet. The name of Dr Nanan Panday, who is currently chairman of the "Sanatab Dharm" religious community, has been mentioned as a possible replacement.

Acting Surinamese Foreign Minister Glen Sankatsingh has instructed Herrenberg to a produce a report on his controversial press conference in the Netherlands a few weeks ago where, the minister said, Herrenberg offended the Netherlands press in a most reprehensible manner. According to an official of Suriname's Central Information Service Herrenberg was also warned about the way in which he attacked the acting foreign minister with the words: "You are acting as if you were present in the Netherlands during the meeting with the press." In Paramaribo Herrenberg's behavior is considered to have been damaging to relations with the Netherlands. Bouterse is said to attach great importance to the restoration of these relations.

In Suriname this evening all movie theaters are required to show a film which shows how dangerous mercenaries are. Admission is free. In charge of all this is Lieutenant Chas Mijnals, one of the sixteen officers involved in the coup in 1980. This was announced by a spokesman for the youth, sports and culture ministry.

HAVANA CITES LABOR LEADER ON CURRENT STRUGGLE

PA241802 Havana International Service in Spanish 0000 GMT 24 Feb 83

[Text] We are struggling to change the country's economic, political, social and educational system, which has led the Dutch colonialists and the U.S. imperialists to try to halt the development of the revolution in our country, Rudi Schillevort, foreign relations secretary of the Progressive Alliance of Workers and Peasants, has said. Shillevort added that there is an imminent threat of aggression against Suriname, for his government has proof that counterrevolutionary groups are organizing in the United States and the Netherlands for a mercenary attack on the South American country. He indicated that the Surinamese Government is trying to carry out a program for the benefit of the masses, which amounts to a continuation of the entire anticolonialist and anti-imperialist struggle waged by the Surinamese people.

RED CROSS REPRESENTATIVE ENDS FACT-FINDING VISIT

FL162115 Bridgetown CANA in English 2040 GMT 16 Feb 83

[Excerpt] Paramaribo, Suriname, Feb 16, CANA -- A representative of the International Red Cross (IRC), Georges Heuman, has ended a one-week fact-finding visit to Suriname, during which he held discussions with political detainees, the official SURINAME NEWS AGENCY (SNA) reported today. Mr Heuman, whose trip here was at the invitation of the Suriname authorities, will submit his findings to IRC headquarters in Geneva. SNA said the Red Cross official had investigated the conditions under which persons were being held in detention as well as the circumstances surrounding the alleged suicide earlier this month of sacked Deputy Army Commander, Major Roy Horb. Horb had been detained in connection with an alleged conspiracy to liquidate members of Suriname's ruling military, headed by Lieutentant-Colonel Daysi Bouterse. The authorities had named him as the ringleader.

SNA said Mr Heuman had thanked the Suriname government for the cooperation they had given him in his investigations. Acting Foreign Minister Glen Sankatsingh said representatives of other international organisations had also been invited to Suriname for an on-the-spot assessment of conditions here.